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OCTOBER 2015



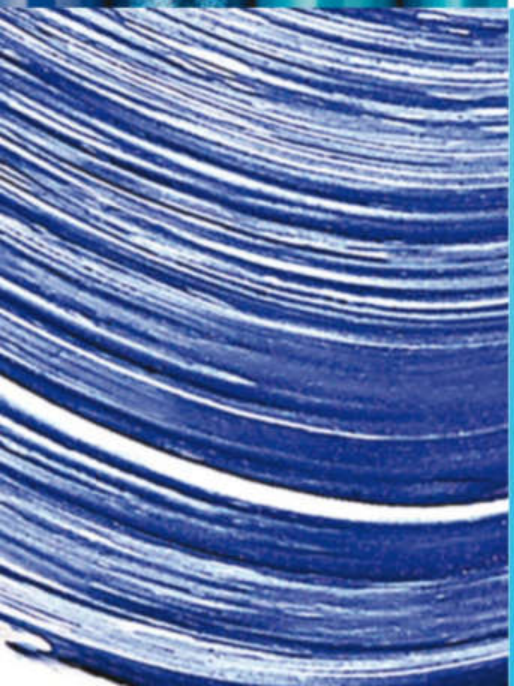


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OCTOBER 2015

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94 MIX MASTERS **When temps drop, add these textured layers to keep warm**

100 WE'RE BACK TOGETHER AGAIN! **Model *Tomiko Fraser Hines* hosted a reunion of some familiar faces from the pages of the nineties issues of ESSENCE**

102 AMAZING GRACE **On the eve of the release of the autobiography of Grace Jones, *Patrik Henry Bass* reflects on her spectacular career and legendary persona**

106 JUSTICE HER WAY **MSNBC's *Melissa Harris-Perry* chats with Loretta Lynch about her journey and plans as U.S. Attorney General**

ON THE COVERS
(See Editor's Letter, page 6.)

Photography by Nino Muñoz. For Viola Davis: Stylist, James Knox. Hairstylist, Giselle Modeste. Makeup artist, Lucky Smyler. Manicurist, Sunshine Outing. For Shonda Rhimes: Stylist, James Knox. Hairstylist, Carla Gentry Osorio. Makeup artist, Renee Garnes. Manicurist, Deborah Lippmann. For Kerry Washington: Stylist, Zoey Washington. Hairstylist, Takisha Sturdivant. Makeup artist, Jenna Menard. Manicurist, Deborah Lippmann. For Chandra Wilson: Stylist, Zoey Washington. Hairstylist, Ursula Stephen. Makeup artist, Merrell Hollis. Manicurist, Deborah Lippmann. *Grey's Anatomy* cast cover: Stylist, James Knox. Manicurist, Deborah Lippmann. For Jason George and James Pickens, Jr.: Barber, Vernon Scott. Groomer, Tia Dantzler. For Jerrika Hinton: Hairstylist, Derrick Scurry. Makeup artist, Fatima Thomas. For Kelly McCreary: Hairstylist, Tiffany Daugherty. Makeup artist, Frank Guyton. *How to Get Away With Murder* cast cover: Stylist, Zoey Washington. Manicurist, Deborah Lippmann. For Billy Brown and Alfred Enoch: Barber, Vernon Scott. Groomer, Tia Dantzler. For Aja Naomi King: Hairstylist, Lacy Redway. Makeup artist, Ashunta Sheriff. On her cover, Viola wears a **Halston Heritage** gown, **Jennifer Fisher** and **Laruicci** cuffs and rings. On her cover, Shonda wears a **Carolina Herrera** gown, **Erickson Beamon** necklace and **Laruicci** bracelet. On her cover, Kerry wears a **Marc Jacobs** gown and her own ring. On her cover, Chandra wears a **JS Collections** gown, **Kimberly McDonald** earrings and **Madyha Farooqui** and **Yael Sonia** rings. *Grey's* cast cover: On Jason: a **Ralph Lauren Black Label** tuxedo, **American Apparel** tee, **Miansai** cuff and **Movado** watch. On James: a **Ralph Lauren Black Label** tuxedo and **Eton** shirt. On Kelly: a custom **James Knox** dress, **Chopard** ring and **Malone Souliers** sandals. Earrings, stylist's own. On Jerrika: **Vionnet** jacket and shorts, **Jennifer Fisher** choker and **Chopard** diamond ring. Top, stylist's own. *HTGAWM* cast cover: On Billy: a **DKNY** suit, **Banana Republic** shirt and **Graff** watch. On Alfred: a **Calvin Klein Collection** suit. **A.P.C.** sweater, **Banana Republic** belt and **Graff** watch. On Aja: a **DSquared2** dress, **Madyha Farooqui** studs, **Kimberly McDonald** ring and **Tamera Mellon** pumps. **ON THIS PAGE** Our model wears an **Angelys Balek** dress, **Gap** leather legging, **Sarah J Curtis** hat, **White House Black Market** belt, **Cynthia Rybakoff** ring, **Suz Somersall** ring and **Sigerson Morrison** boots. For details, see Where to Buy.

DENNIS LEUPOLD

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GREG VORE



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OUR BEAUTY MATTERS



Recently I was asked by a national media outlet to weigh in on the prevalence of Black women covering the coveted September issue, arguably the most popular and largest of the year for many publications. This serendipitous newsstand takeover, which included mainstream magazines like *Shape*, *Self*, *Variety* and *Vogue*, and featured such icons as Serena Williams, Beyoncé, Queen Latifah and our own Misty Copeland, was a watershed. Social media—especially Instagram—was ON FIRE, applauding this groundbreaking moment.

> "Here's what the founders of ESSENCE instinctively knew 45 years ago: Black is beautiful, and deserving of the cover spotlight."

Why all the attention? Industry-wide, there had been a long-standing opinion that Black women did not sell well on magazine covers. Clearly that perception is shifting. It seems some publishing executives may finally be coming around to recognizing what the founders of ESSENCE instinctively knew 45 years ago: Black is beautiful, and deserving of the cover spotlight.

Now if we can only get the senior staffs of mainstream publications to be as diverse as their September covers—to truly represent the audiences they serve. That would be a victory that would resonate long after these images leave our newsstands and fade from our collective memories.

In the meantime, know that when it comes to beauty inspiration, ESSENCE will always have your back every day on ESSENCE.com and 12 times a year in your home.

This month we're giving you six ways (far right) to enjoy the power of our presence on TV. Which cover is your favorite? I'd love to hear from you.

Stay in touch,

Vanessa K. De Luca

VANESSA K. DE LUCA
Editor-in-Chief

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Which is your fave #TGIT ShondaLand takeover? For more #TGIT takes, visit our sister title at ew.com.

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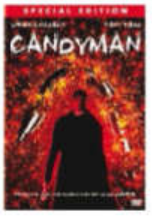
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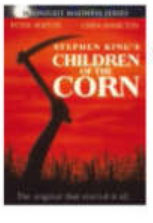
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GLOBE-TROTTIN'!

HAPPY NOW



Erykah Badu graced our first global August 2015 issue

Erykah Badu's amazing essay "The Paradigm of Joy" ["Spirited Away"] sparked an awakening. It was confirmation of exactly where I am in my life. I believe joy is an evolved energy that connects us to one another. I agree with her explanation that we should tap into this emotional part of ourselves. We must really stop and take a moment to appreciate the things we take for granted, such as the grace of being allowed to see another day. It doesn't matter what happens in life—we are not our circumstances. As Sister Badu pointed out, we can be filled with joy when we can acknowledge and separate who we are from our situations and perceptions. We are all *awesomely* unique and have the creative power and ability to make our lives great because we are great.

—Darlene Thomas-El, Paterson, NJ



Our "Bridging the Gap" panelists

CULTURAL BRIDGE

I just had to express how much I loved and appreciated this African diaspora–focused issue. You hit it from multiple angles (politics, fashion and so on), which made the magazine even more dynamic and engaging. As a child of an African immigrant, I often feel Africans are invisible in America, so I welcomed the attention given to our rich diversity. My lone criticism is that "Bridging the Gap" was a bit one-sided. The discussion on the divisions and tensions among us created a narrative of African and Caribbean immigrants as perpetrators and African-Americans as victims. All groups have an equal hand in the problem. Nonetheless, I would love to see a global issue like this be a regular or annual feature.

—Marya Mtshali, Boston

#ESSENCETRAVELS

Our global issue, especially "The 2015 ESSENCE Travel Guide," encouraged readers to #SeeSomeWorld. Many shared images of their adventures this summer on Instagram. We do indeed get around.



@bidsingraceland in Accra, Ghana



@datchic1 in Athens, Greece



@jaimeeratliff in Bali, Indonesia



@bktraveladdict in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates



@lavielocale in Loire Valley, France



@passport2pretty in Barcelona, Spain

TOP RIGHT, MARGARITA CORPORAN. ESSENCE TRAVELS, FROM LEFT: @BIDSINGRACELAND; MARSHA MORENCY/@DATCHIC1; @JAIMEERATLIFF; @BKTRAVELADDICT; @LAVIELOCALE; @PASSPORT2PRETTY; BOTTOM, GREG VORE.

Kudos on going global! This is absolutely the best issue of ESSENCE I've ever read. I could not put it down. It was so interesting and informative, and just the kick our community needs. It's essential that we, as African-Americans, be knowledgeable about international matters.

—Pamela Holman, Queens, NY

OUR GREETINGS AND LOVE TO THE ESSENCE TEAM WHO VISITED GIRL CHILD NETWORK AND THE UHURU GARDENS PRIMARY SCHOOL ["GET LIFTED"]. WE HOLD YOU IN OUR HEARTS! WE HAVE COPIES OF THE ISSUE AT THE SCHOOL AND GIRL CHILD NETWORK'S RESOURCE CENTER. EVERYBODY WHO SEES IT IS SURPRISED. WE SAY TO THEM, "THIS IS WHAT GOD CAN DO!" BLESSINGS.

—Mercy Musomi, Executive Director, Girl Child Network, Nairobi, Kenya



ESSENCE staffers with Mercy (front row, second from left) and Girl Child Network members in Nairobi in June.

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During her set, Erykah Badu revealed behind the scenes of her August global issue cover shoot.

2015 ESSENCE FESTIVAL

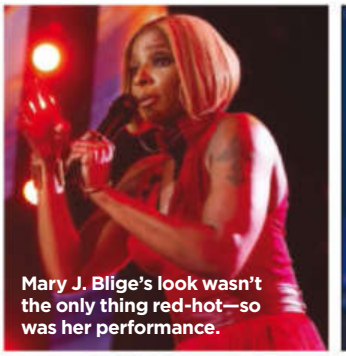
Four nights. Twenty stages. Eighty artists. R&B, hip-hop, gospel: We had it covered



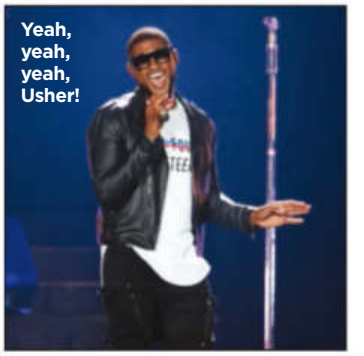
Everything was "Alright" with Kendrick Lamar.



One word for Missy Elliott's first EF show: epic.



Mary J. Blige's look wasn't the only thing red-hot—so was her performance.



Yeah, yeah, yeah, Usher!



New Orleans' own Trombone Shorty shined.



Floetry together again

Cam excea dolore, occat



Kem



Maze featuring Frankie Beverly made it a white night to remember.



Common went back to his hip-hop roots.



Lecrae lifted hands and spirits.



The ultimate hype man: Doug E. Fresh



Ain't nobody like Charlie Wilson.



India.Arie channeled her inner neosoul goddess.



Trey Songz took in the love. ▷

TROMBONE SHORTY, KEM AND DOUG E. FRESH, DAVID WILLIAMS; FLOETRY AND USHER, SASHA MATTHEWS. ALL OTHERS, GUS BENNETT, JR.

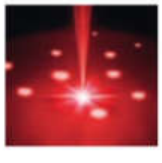
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2015 ESSENCE FEST EMPOWERMENT EXPERIENCE

During the day, festivalgoers were inspired, coached and uplifted through a series of intimate panels about health and relationships. Steve Harvey even helped attendees find love



Mothers and daughters discussed their bond: Lynn Whitfield, Grace Gibson, Cynthia Bailey, moderator Crystal McCrary, Noelle Robinson, Alice Randall and Caroline Randall Williams.



Soledad O'Brien and Jussie Smollet



DeVon Franklin and his wife, Meagan Good



Flex and Shanice Alexander showed what keeps their love strong: laughter.



EF first-timer: Deepak Chopra



Iyanla Vanzant



Keke Palmer moderated the #NoJudgmentZone panel with reality stars Claudia Jordan, Mariah HuQ and Karrine Steffans.



ESSENCE's Vanessa K. De Luca



Keke Palmer

2015 GOSPEL

An all-star day of praise, worship and prayer



Honoree Kim Burrell



Steve Harvey hosted an on-site dating game.





Deitrick Haddon



Anita Wilson



Yolanda Adams

CHOPRA, BRANDON WILLIAMS, DE LUCA AND HADDON, SASHA MATTHEWS, ALL OTHERS, GUS BENNETT, JR.


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READY FOR THE COLD

AMP UP YOUR OUTERWEAR WITH RICH TEXTURES AND UNIQUE SILHOUETTES

PHOTOGRAPHY BY JOSHUA PESTKA
FASHION EDITOR: JOIEE THORPE

H&M Studio embellished cap, $80, sweater, $199, leather skirt, $249, and boots, $249, all at hm.com.

HAIR: ERIC WILLIAMS. MAKEUP: YUKO MIZUNO USING DIOR ADDICT/RONA REPRESENTS. MANICURE: MAYUMI ABUKU USING DIOR VERNIS/RONA REPRESENTS.

STYLE



7. Wilfred "Courcelle" vest, $175, aritzia.com. **525 America** sweater, $78, 525america.com. **Lafayette 148 New York** "Irving" wool pants, $238, nordstrom.com. **Balmain for H&M** gloves, $40, hm.com. **Dolce Vita** "Hanover" boots, $220, dolcevita.com.

WELL VESTED

GET CHIC IN STANDOUT PONCHOS AND VESTS

1. White House Black Market faux-shearling vest, $180, whmb.com.

2. Boden "Charlotte" cape, $238, bodenusa.com.

3. UGG Australia "Robbyn" poncho, $115, uggaustralia.com.

4. The Limited Luxe Collection vest, $200, thelimited.com.

5. Reiss "Alberta" faux-fur gilet, $620, reiss.com.

6. ASOS belted cover-up, $215, asos.com.

8. Babaton "Archie" poncho, $298, aritzia.com. ▷

STILLS, DYAD PHOTOGRAPHY. PROP STYLIST, BILL LAUGHLIN/MARK EDWARD, INC.

HELLO FALL

THERE'S
SOMETHING IN
THE AIR





a.n.a
A NEW APPROACH

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a.n.a. shirt - orig. $36, **sale 19.99**
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COAT CHECK

GO ALL OUT IN GRAPHIC STRIPES, GLAM FRINGE AND FUN FURS

1. Amanda Uprichard "Grace" drape coat, $418, Bloomingdale's.

2. H&M Studio wool coat, $199, hm.com.

3. Zara furry jacket, $70, zara.com.

4. French Connection belted faux-fur wool coat, $320, Lord & Taylor.

6. Joe Fresh fur bomber jacket, $129, joefresh.com.

7. Calvin Klein herringbone topper, $400, Macy's.

8. Day Birger et Mikkelsen coat, $620, day.dk/eu/en/women.

9. Karen Millen fringe suede coat, $1,350, karenmillen.com.

STILLS, DYAD PHOTOGRAPHY. PROP STYLIST, BILL LAUGHLIN/MARK EDWARD, INC.

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LIVE IN VIOLET

Féria

Liya Kebede is wearing
Féria Power Violet
in shade V48.
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BLUSHING BEAUTIES

SPRING INTO FALL WITH THIS SEASON'S ROSY "IT" COLOR

PHOTOGRAPHY BY DYAD PHOTOGRAPHY
FASHION EDITOR: JOIEE THORPE

Marc by Marc Jacobs shades, $120, Solstice Sunglasses.

Reiss "Felton" blouse, $275, reiss.com.

Dune "Darcey" stilettos, $139, dunelondon.com.

By Boe wire arc earrings, $35, byboe.com.

ASOS patch faux-fur coat, $171, asos.com.

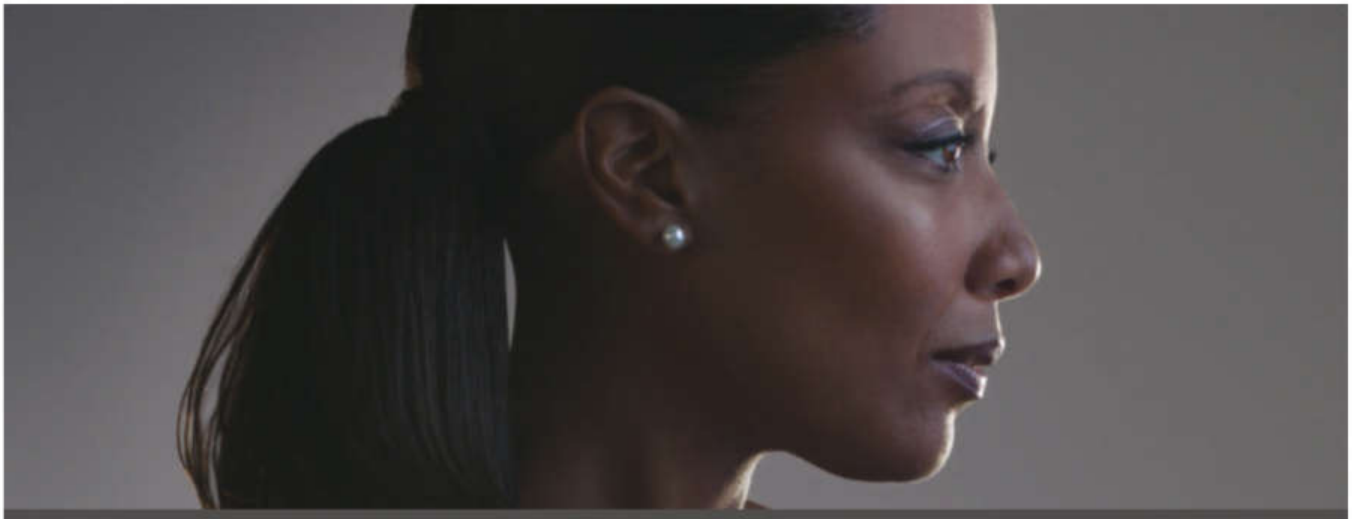
Halston Heritage "Barley" dress, $395, Bloomingdale's, NYC, 800-232-1854.

Nanette Lepore "My Girl Mini" skirt, $228, nanettelepore.com.

Furla "Candy Cookie" mini satchel, $448, furla.com.

Givenchy palette metallic reflection, $60, barneys.com.

PROP STYLIST, BILL LAUGHLIN/MARK EDWARD, INC. MAKEUP CRUSH, GREG VORE.



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Available features shown

It Girl

JUSTINE SKYE

THIS FRESH-FACED SINGER-SONGWRITER IS INSPIRED BY LIFE, LOVE AND RIRI

BY PAMELA EDWARDS CHRISTIANI

ESSENCE: Your personal style is...
JUSTINE SKYE: Comfy, sexy, chic with some tomboy sprinkled in.

ESSENCE: What inspires your music?
J.S.: The situations I go through. I'm 20 [and twentysomethings] go through so many crazy emotions. We fall in love; we get our hearts broken. It's pretty messy but we figure it out.

ESSENCE: Who's your style icon?
J.S.: Rihanna's fashion sense is amazing! She's not afraid to try new things and she sets trends every time.

ESSENCE: Favorite piece in your closet?
J.S.: My gray Rick Owens tank dress, simple and fashionable.

ESSENCE: How do you take care of your purple hair?
J.S.: When it comes to getting my signature color—a combination of Manic Panic's Purple Haze, Ultra Violet and Violet Night shades—I let the professionals handle that.

ESSENCE: Do you have a beauty routine?
J.S.: I use Clinique three-step acne solutions system *every day*. If I do wear makeup, it's a little MAC Studio Fix Foundation and a lip liner, mainly MAC in Cork.

ESSENCE: Explain the meaning and message of your moniker, The Purple Unicorn.
J.S.: My hair is purple, so that's where the purple comes from...and unicorns are unique, rare, strong, beautiful, majestic. They're different. □



Justine Skye's latest EP, ***Emotionally Unavailable***, is out now.



RICK OWENS
Sheer Midi Dress
$394, farfetch.com



Rihanna leaving the 2015 BET Awards in L.A.



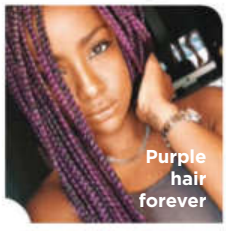
AMERICAN APPAREL
Cotton Spandex Julliard Top, $38, and Tennis Skirt, $54, american apparel.com.



HER INSTA-LIFE!



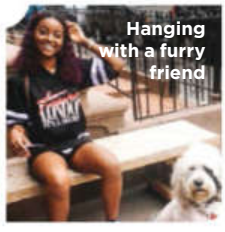
The Purple Unicorn in check



Purple hair forever



Belting it out in the Bronx



Hanging with a furry friend

Follow Justine on Instagram @justineskye.

CLINIQUE
Acne Solutions Clear Skin System Starter Kit, $38, clinique.com.



SKYE, RENELL MEDRANO. RIHANNA, PRINCE WILLIAMS/FILMMAGIC. INSTAGRAM PHOTOS, CLOCKWISE FROM BOTTOM LEFT: RENELLE MEDRANO/@RENELLAICE; JACOB ROCHESTER/@JACOB_ROCHESTER; COURTESY OF SUBJECT (2). STILLS: COURTESY OF MANUFACTURERS.


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ESSENCE READERS' CHOICE AWARDS 2015

Winner's Circle

Each year we look to our most dedicated beauty enthusiasts (hint: it's you!) to pick the most innovative and effective new products that work. Here are this year's standouts

PHOTOGRAPHY BY GREG VORE

FOUNDATION

(TIE)

1. Lancôme Miracle Cushion Liquid Cushion Compact
($47, lancome-usa.com)
"It feels light on my face, the compact is easy to carry and it matches my skin perfectly."
—Angela Boudreaux, Harvey, LA

2. Make Up For Ever Ultra HD Stick Foundation
($43, Sephora)
"This foundation is very lightweight and gives me a flawless look that I have not seen with any other foundation I've tried."
—Chrisy Brutus, Winter Park, FL

3. Maybelline New York SuperStay Better Skin Foundation ($12, maybelline.com)
"It's very creamy without feeling heavy, it matched my complexion and it has sunscreen!"
—Erika Medley, Rockford, IL

CONCEALER

(TIE)

4. Bobbi Brown Intensive Skin Serum Concealer
($40, bobbibrowncosmetics.com)
"My foundation looks flawless over it and when I used this concealer, I found that I actually used much less foundation."
—Niketa Dennis, Keller, TX

5. Becca Ultimate Coverage Concealing Crème
($32, sephora.com)
"The color match is great; it blends supremely and does not dry out, crack or cake."
—Renee Peters, Philadelphia



BEAUTY

MAKEUP & NAILS

ESSENCE READERS' CHOICE AWARDS 2015

NAIL POLISH



OPI Infinite Shine Gel Effects Lacquer System ($13 each, ulta.com)

"I wash my hands a lot at work, so it's pretty hard to keep polish on my nails for more than two days. I wore this polish for two weeks. The shine lasted the entire time and I didn't get one chip. It's amazing!" **—Melanie Maldonado, Davie, FL**

BROWS



Lancôme Sourcils Gel Waterproof Eyebrow Gel-Cream ($24, lancome-usa.com)

"The consistency is very silky and the application is effortless. It feels like I don't have anything on my brows. It's easy to clean up mistakes and the color isn't too harsh. I was even able to touch-up my brows without it looking cakey."
—Kenyatta Stephens, Atlanta

EYE SHADOW



Iman Cosmetics Perfect Eye Shadow Pencil ($10, target.com)

"The color is a shade I can wear daily. I also like that the pencil is something I can easily take on the go."
—Charita Vine, Kansas City, KS

EYELINER



Eyeko Fat Liquid Eye Liner ($16, eyeko.com)

"The fatness of the pen is way more wcomfortable in my hand than other eyeliners I've used, which made it easy to apply."
—Melanie Brown, Indianapolis

MASCARA



Yves Saint Laurent Mascara Volume Effect Faux Cils ($32, yslbeautyus.com)

"Mascara is a staple in my makeup kit, so it really has to stand out for me to keep it in rotation. This one did just that. The formula is smooth. And the color is a high-density black that makes my curly lashes look lengthy and full."
—Stephanie Wise, Madison, IL

LIPSTICK

(TIE)



Urban Decay Sheer Revolution Lipstick ($22, urbandecay.com)

"With moisturizing ingredients like shea butter, jojoba, olive, and babassu oils, this long-lasting lipstick is great for natural makeup days."
—Patricia Striggles, Bronx, NY



Almay Smart Shade Butter Kiss Lipstick ($7, Walgreens)

"The consistency is soft and creamy and the color lasted a long time before I had to reapply. I also love that they cater to African-Americans by stating that this is for dark skin." **—Crystal Irby, Durham, NC**

LIP GLOSS



SheaMoisture Shea Butter Ultra Shine Lip Gloss ($10, Target)

"The color is completely true to what was shown in the tube. It doesn't leave a film on my lips, and it actually survived a meal and a snack!"
—Rachael Ruffin, Silver Spring, MD

BLUSH



Milani Rose Powder Blush ($8, CVS)

"This blush has just enough pigment to make the cheeks look rosy. A small amount goes a long way. It works well on both my fair skin and on my girlfriend who is of a darker complexion."
—Nicole Clark, Woodbridge, VA

MAKEUP PRIMER



CoverGirl Outlast All-Day Primer ($9, Walmart)

"I have very oily skin and this primer kept my face matte for the longest period of time." **—Sylvia Spivey, Philadelphia** ▷

1. OPI Infinite Shine Gel Effects Lacquers.
2. Milani Rose Powder Blush.
3. Urban Decay Sheer Revolution Lipsticks.
4. Shea Moisture Shea Butter Ultra Shine Lip Gloss.

PRODUCT SHOTS COURTESY OF BRANDS


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HAIR

ESSENCE READERS' CHOICE AWARDS 2015

> "My hair has turned into a brittle mass, but I used this and wow, huge difference!"
>
> —KARLENE CARNEGIE

NATURAL HAIR SYSTEM



Dark & Lovely Au Naturale Moisture L.O.C. Cleansing Shampoil and Deep Conditioning Delight ($10 each, Target)

"This combo gave my curls lots of moisture and definition without leaving any buildup on my hair."

—Quintella Rowell, Birmingham, AL

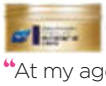
RELAXED HAIR SYSTEM



Carol's Daughter Mirabelle Plum Biotin Shampoo & Conditioner ($10–$12 each, Target)

"I've tried other sulfate-free shampoos in the past and my hair immediately felt hard and tangled. Not with this! My hair loves this shampoo and conditioner and does not tangle." **—Dawn Langston, Milford, CT**

HAIR MASQUE



PHYTO PHYTOKeratine Extreme Exceptional Mask ($59, Sephora)

"At my age, I've noticed that my hair has turned into a dry, brittle, frizzy mass. I used this product and wow! It made such a huge difference. It's fantastic!" **—Karlene Carnegie, Tamarac, FL**

CURL CREAM



Miss Jessie's Coily Custard ($14, missjessies.com)

"This gives me shiny, bouncy curls all day without any frizz." **—Charmale Cockrell, Pittsburgh**

DRY SHAMPOO



Moroccanoil Dry Shampoo Dark Tones ($26, moroccanoil.com) "For a dry shampoo there's no powdery residue, it smells great and adds a nice thickness to my hair." **—Rosland Martin, Snellville, GA**

GEL



R+Co MOTORCYCLE Flexible Gel ($26, neimanmarcus.com)

"I like the way this gel interacts with my hair. It gives a flexible hold without leaving a gunky buildup. It also has a clean scent that's not too overpowering."

—Monica Scott, Columbus, OH

HAIR OIL/SERUM



Nexxus New York Salon Care Oil Infinite Nourishing Oil ($18, CVS)

"I have very thick, coarse, relaxed hair that's cut into layers. My style requires a lot of movement. I've used this oil on both wet and dry hair, and I'm able to get the shine I want, plus the moisture, without it being heavy or feeling like it has product buildup." **—Felicia Walker-Stephen, Richardson, TX**

HEAT PROTECTANT



Paul Mitchell MIRRORSMOOTH Primer ($27, paulmitchell.com)

"Normally my hair reverts with humidity, but this keeps my hair from totally frizzing. I used this before I went to Essence Fest and my relaxed hair stayed nicely. My hair was smooth and the shine was awesome."

—Myra Achoe, Fort Mill, SC

1

FLAT IRONS

(TIE)



ghd Platinum ($249, Sephora)

"This styler allows me to straighten my hair without having to worry about overheating and/or damaging my very color treated and curly hair, leaving it soft to the touch and with a reflective shine."

—Lisa M. Franklin, Pflugerville, TX



Hot Tools 1" Salon Flat Iron-Extra Long Plates ($60, ulta.com)

"I like the long flat plates. They make it easier to handle my hair from root to tip. The iron also heats up really quickly."

—Regina Daniels, Farmingdale, NY

CURLING IRON



Phuse Beauty Wind Me Up Curling Iron ($75, phusebeauty.com)

"My daughter tried this and said that it gave her a fresh-from-the-salon look." **—Kisha Bowser, Virginia Beach, VA**

BLOW-DRYER



Revlon Pro Collection Soft Feel AC Motor Dryer ($35, Target) "This dried my hair in half the time of the other dryers I've tried. It also gets hotter and has less confusing settings."

—Ashton Grose, Leland, NC ▷

2

1. PHYTO PHYTOKeratine Extreme Exceptional Mask. 2. Dark & Lovely Au Naturale Moisture L.O.C. Deep Conditioning Delight. ▷

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SKIN CARE

ESSENCE READERS' CHOICE AWARDS 2015

FACIAL CLEANSER



Yes To Blueberries Foaming Facial Cleanser
($10, yestocarrots.com)
"This cleanses my skin without stripping or overdrying. It also smells good and has a nice light texture."
—Terry Williams, Brooklyn

FACIAL MOISTURIZER



belif The true cream aqua bomb ($38, Sephora)
"This moisturizer left my skin feeling soft and revitalized. It worked so well that I took it to work to use on my hands during the day."
—Rosalind Parker, Prosper, TX

EYE CREAM



Neutrogena Hydro Boost Gel-Cream Eye ($19, neutrogena.com)
"I like the nice smooth texture, which blends easily into my skin and doesn't burn."
—Lonna Gordon, New York City

MAKEUP REMOVER



Korres Greek Yoghurt Cleansing & Makeup Removing Wipes
($15, sephora.com)
"My oily, acne-prone skin feels amazingly clean and moisturized, and I haven't noticed any breakouts since using it." **—Niki Banks, College Park, GA**

ACNE/BLEMISH TREATMENT



Paula's Choice Resist 25% Vitamin C Spot Treatment
($55, paulaschoice.com)
"It is easy to use and fragrance-free, and works on my tough-to-go-away brown spots." **—Denise Bolds, Marlboro, NY**

SERUMS

(TIE)



Vichy Aqualia Thermal Dynamic Hydration Power Serum ($36, vichyusa.com)
"I've been using the same products since 1999, but this works so well with my skin, which is now radiant!"
—Monica Bailey, Brooklyn



Origins Original Skin Renewal Serum
($39, origins.com)
"It's nongreasy and left my skin soft with a nice glow."
—Sharon Smith, Philadelphia

FACIAL EXFOLIATOR



CosMedix Purity Detox Scrub ($48, cosmedix.com)
"You need very little of this scrub. Getting a small lather when I mixed it in my hand with just water was impressive. My face feels super clean, softer and literally has a glow." **—Cassandra H., Alta Loma, CA** ▷

"This serum is nongreasy and left my skin with a nice glow."
—SHARON SMITH



1. belif The true cream aqua bomb. 2. Origins Original Skin Renewal Serum. 3. Yes To Blueberries Foaming Facial Cleanser. 4. CosMedix Purity Detox Scrub.

#SUMMERHOOPS

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HEAT WAVE





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BODY

ESSENCE READERS' CHOICE AWARDS 2015

HAIR REMOVAL: CLASSIC



Gillette Venus Swirl **($13, Walmart)**

"Shaving isn't my favorite thing to do, but this razor made it easy for me. It was the quickest I've ever shaved. I barely have to press it onto my skin to get the hair off. It leaves my skin smooth and moisturized." **—Jasmine Henderson, Harrisburg, PA**

HAIR REMOVAL: ELECTRONIC



Remington Smooth & Silky Rechargeable Shaver

($45, remingtonproducts.com)

"There's no pulling or burning, and my skin does not feel dry after using. It's easy to clean and does an excellent job of smoothly rolling over all parts of my body." **—Michelle Roberts, Grand Prairie, TX**

BODY EXFOLIATOR



John Masters Organics Body Scrub

($20, johnmasters.com)

"It's the perfect blend of oil and sugar, and does a great job of exfoliating without stripping my skin. Plus, the scent is soft and calming." **—Danette Greenwood, Washington, DC**

BODY OIL



Pacifica Dry Roll-On Body Oil **($18, ulta.com)**

"This has an amazing smell, doesn't cause you to break out, it's natural and a small amount goes a long way." **—Kimberly Bristow, Loganville, GA**

BODY LOTION



Nourish Organic Skin Solve Cream-To-Oil

($20, Whole Foods)

"My skin feels luxurious and supple. It's gentle enough to use on my face, yet strong enough to soften my heels!"

—Devita Scott, Nashville

SHOWER GEL



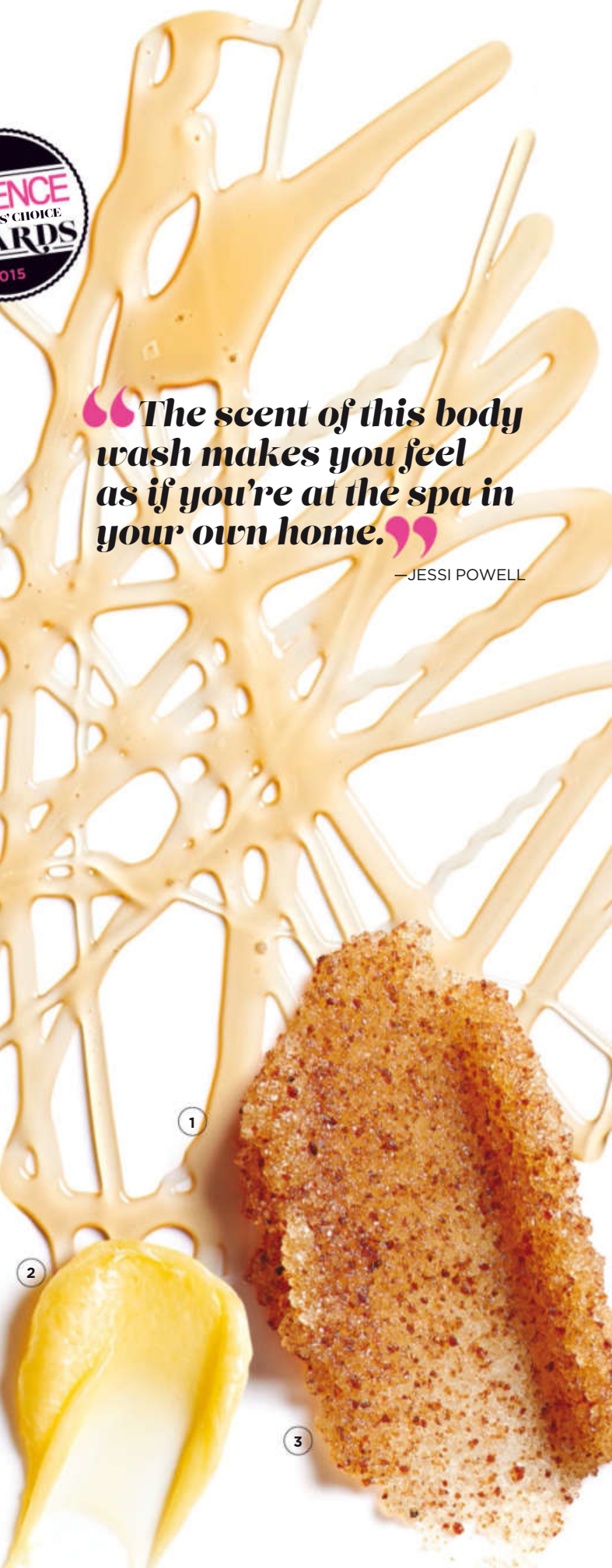
Dial Miracle Oil Body Wash **($5, Walgreens)**

"The scent creates a nice aroma while you're in the shower. It makes you feel as if you're at the spa in your own home."

—Jessi Powell, Fort Lauderdale, FL

"The scent of this body wash makes you feel as if you're at the spa in your own home."

—JESSI POWELL



1. Dial Miracle Oil Body Wash. 2. Nourish Organics Skin Solve Cream-To-Oil. 3. John Masters Organics Body Scrub.


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THE BUZZ

FASHIONY MAKEUP, A BEAUTY BOX AND A TREATMENT WORTH EVERY PENNY. **PAMELA EDWARDS CHRISTIANI** REVEALS WHAT'S HOT THIS MONTH

The ESSENCE BeautyBox is finally here—a monthly subscription to pretty

We've been birthing this baby for over a year, but now it's ready. Our audience of Black beauty enthusiasts can enjoy a box of goodies curated by the ESSENCE beauty team. Our inaugural package includes Calvin Klein's floral scent, a coconut shea oil for the hair from Eden (one of our favorite indie brands) and a brow beautifier from Tarte. Open a box for $15 a month. Visit essencebeautybox.com for details.



Selections from our October BeautyBox: Eden BodyWorks Coconut Shea All Natural Hair Oil, Calvin Klein Eternity Now for Women, Curls Crème Brule Whipped Curl Cream, L'Occitane Shea Butter Hand Cream and Tarte The Brow Architect.

STYLE & BEAUTY MASH-UP

These fashion-forward lines have a place in your makeup bag, on your vanity and in your shower



1. Christian Louboutin
Now it has lipsticks (or lip colours) as pretty as its shoes ($90 each, christianlouboutin.com).

2. Sophia Webster/ Toni&Guy
Whimsical Brit shoe designer plus runway-worthy hair line equals fab packaging for Sophia x Toni&Guy Shampoo and Conditioner ($15 each, Target).

3. H&M
It was only a matter of time before the fast-fashion brand launched a cosmetics line, including nail color: H&M Nail Polish ($6, hm.com).

4. Kenzo
This Paris design house's skin care products are now available stateside. We love Kenzoki Sensual Bare Body Cream ($48, sephora.com).

5. Ciaté/Olivia Palermo
The nail brand collabed with It girl Palermo for Ciaté London Olivia Palermo (great shades for us!). Try its Eye Shadow Palette ($39, Sephora).





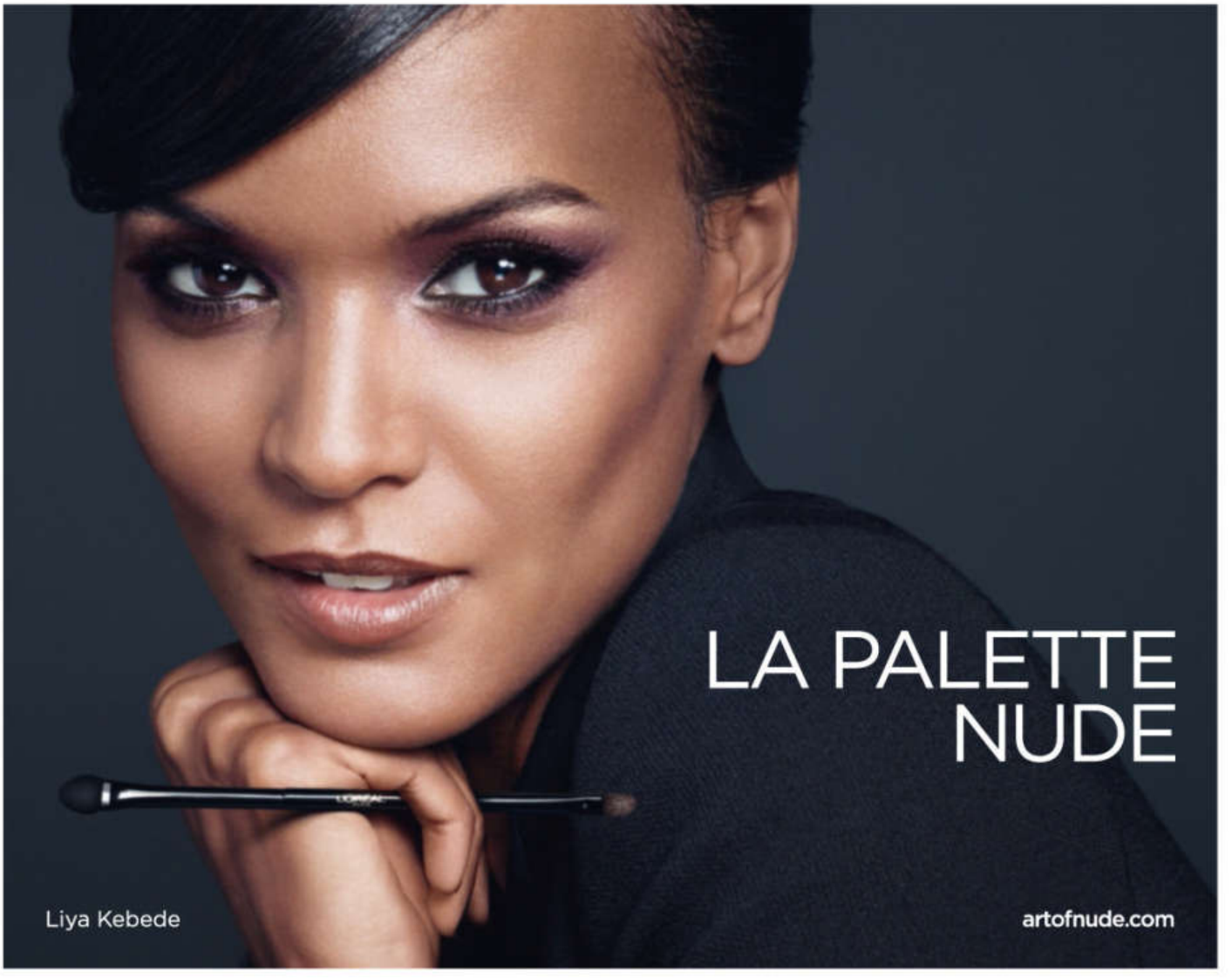




HOLD TIGHT: ULTHERAPY SAVES THE DAY

Our bodies stop making collagen in our mid-to-late thirties, and since I'm well over 30 I reached out to trusted Chevy Chase, Maryland–based cosmetic derm Lisa R. Ginn, M.D., on how to keep my jawline tight and my cheekbones on fleek. She's a proponent of Ultherapy, an ultrasound treatment that stimulates collagen production. "That's the key to firm skin," says Ginn. "Ultrasound allows me to see exactly where I'm sending the pulses, whereas lasers send pulses blindly through the skin." Laser treatment can require 6 to 12 rounds; Ultherapy, one or two. Ginn says it will cost you a few thousand, but that's cheaper than repeated injectables or a face-lift. Visit skinatlrg.com or ultherapy.com for more information.

FROM TOP RIGHT: STINA PERSSON; J. MUCKLE (5); LEONARD McLANE/GETTY IMAGES; COURTESY OF BRANDS (5); JON PEARSON (2); GREG VORE. CHRISTIANI; WARWICK SAINT.





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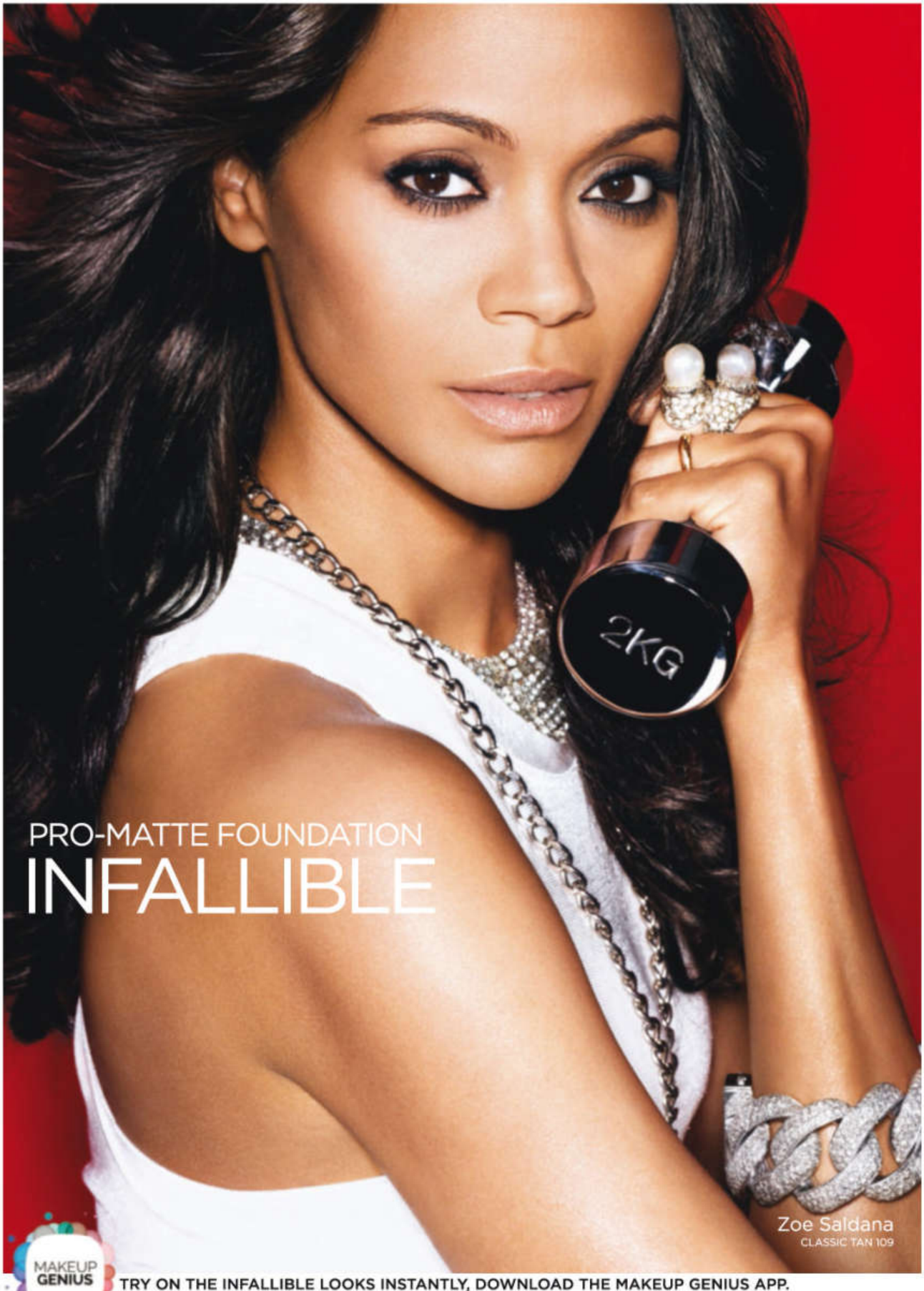
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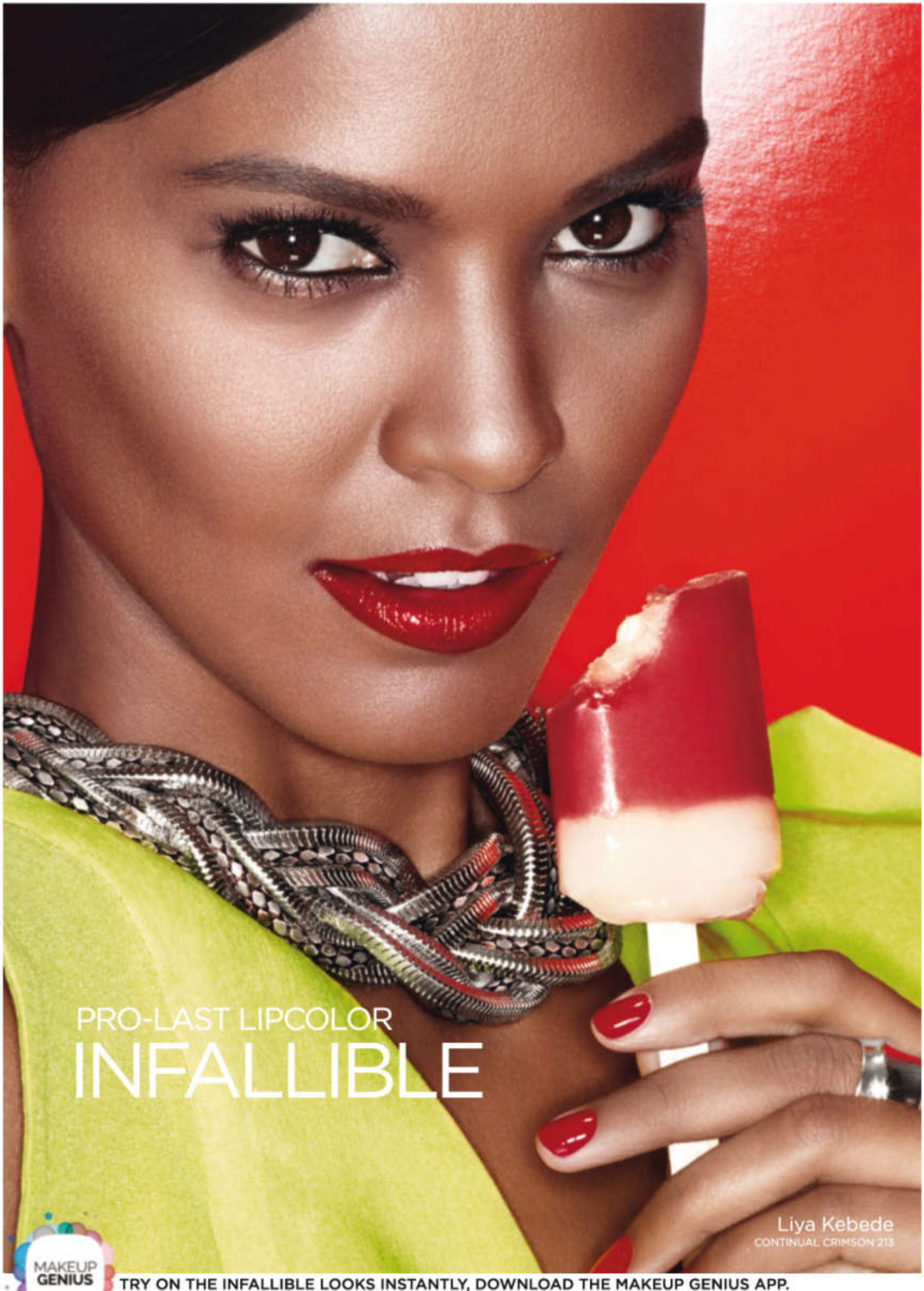
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STEP 2

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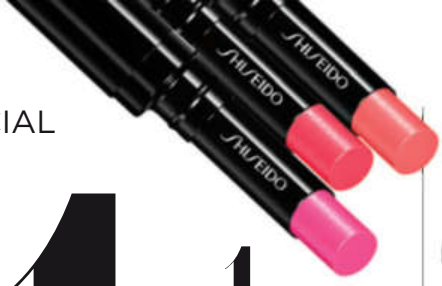
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31 DAYS OF BLACK BEAUTY

DON'T JUST THINK PINK. SHOP FOR IT AND HELP SAVE LIVES WITH THESE BREAST CANCER AWARENESS PRODUCTS THAT GIVE BACK

BY ANDREA JORDAN



1 This trio of pinks will pump up your pout!



2 A swipe of vibrant color on cheeks gives a natural and effortlessly flushed glow.

3



A stylist fave, it revives limp locks.

4



Melt tangles and keep kiddie curls silky smooth with each wash.

5



Show your BCA solidarity by accenting strands with a spritz of pink.

6 Indulge in an organic cream filled with sweet red rose petals.



7



Combat cold-weather redness with a soothing serum.

8



The lotion calms and hydrates even super-sensitive skin.

9



Try these four pink hues and textures—one for each week of October.

10



What a perfect hair accessory for your inner flower child!

11



It's a makeup maven's treasure—one for you and one for your bestie!

12



Keep B.O. at bay without the harsh ingredients.

13



This cute, lightweight dryer helps strands stay sleek.

14



Add pizzazz to your pony with a colorful barrette.

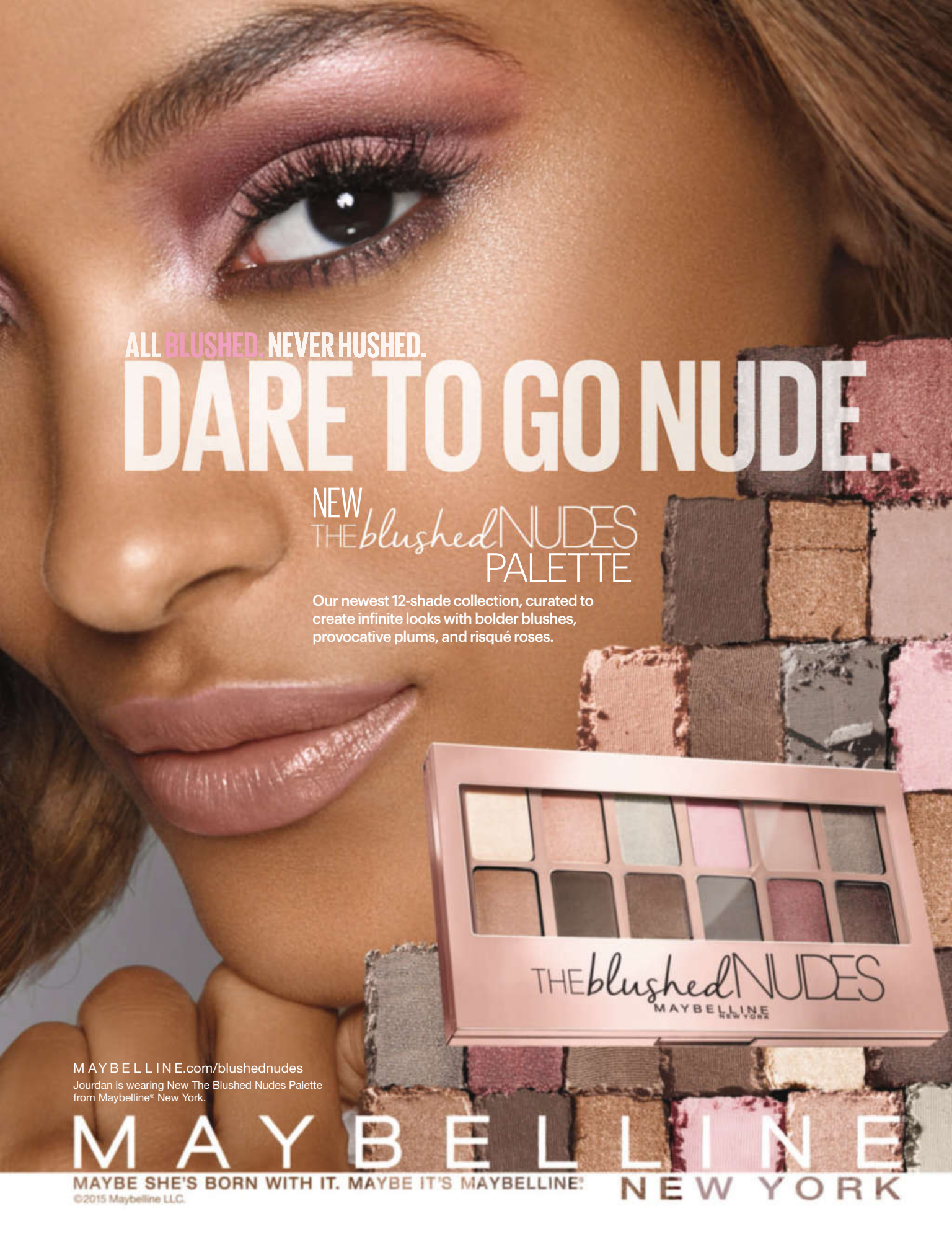
15



These essential makeup brushes come in a petite, purse-friendly pouch (not pictured). ▷

1. Shiseido Veiled Rouge Lipsticks in Pomegranate, Skyglow and Sloe ($25 each, Macy's). **2. Clinique** Pink With a Purpose Cheek Pop With Bag ($22, clinique.com). **3. Bumble and bumble** Prêt-à-Powder Limited Edition Pink Cap ($27, sephora.com). **4. Ouidad** KRLY Kids No Time for Tears Shampoo ($15, ouidad.com). **5. Joico** Shimmer Finishing Spray ($10, joico.com). **6. Éminence** Sweet Red Rose Whip Moisturizer ($74, 2 oz, buynaturalskincare.com). **7. Darphin** Intral Redness Relief Soothing Serum ($88, darphin.com). **8. June Jacobs** Rapid Repair Healing Cream ($60, junejacobs.com). **9. Morgan Taylor** Fight Like a Lady Collection ($15, morgantaylorlacquer.com). **10. Emi Jay** Serena Headband ($12, emijay.com). **11. Beautyblender** Bright Pink Duo ($28, beautyblender.com). **12. Soft & Dri** Aluminum Free Deodorant ($2, CVS). **13. Paul Mitchell** Pink Out Loud! Express Ion Dry+ Blow-dryer ($130, paulmitchell.com for salons). **14. France Luxe** Pink Ribbon Classic Rectangle Barrettes ($22 each, franceluxe.com). **15. Sonia Kashuk** Proudly Pink Five-Piece Purse Brush Set ($16, Target).

10, 11, 14 AND 15, GREG VORE. ALL OTHERS COURTESY OF MANUFACTURERS.


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16



How can you forget your lip balm when it's this cute?

17



Start your beauty routine from within with a boost of antioxidants.

18



Keeps shadow perfectly put all day.

19



Purple orchid, noni extract and acai leave skin flawless and dewy.

20



A tress-repairing leave-in treatment for curly or straight girls.

21



Brushing is simple with an ergonomically shaped handle and plush bristles.

22



Fill your room with the sweet aroma of grapefruit in a reusable mason jar.

23



A few drops full of vitamins help improve skin tone and texture.

24

We love this floral scent with notes of raspberry, peony and black vanilla.



25



For lashes that say wow, curl before and after your mascara.

26



Use this versatile brush to help blow-dry, detangle or smooth with a few simple strokes.

27



Just shake and spray to give flat hair a lift!

28

A polish inspired by Deborah's mother-in-law is the go-to pink for a delicate, but classic mani.



29



Vitamins, peptides and botanicals work to thicken brows and lashes.

30



Say ciao to chapped lips with this luxe, hydrating formula.

31



Three best-selling lipsticks are stashed in this cute carryall!

17, 21, 22 AND 23, GREG VORE; ALL OTHERS COURTESY OF MANUFACTURERS.

16. EOS 2015 Breast Cancer Awareness Pack ($7, Ulta). **17. My Beauty Tea** in Red Blush ($8, mybeautytea.com). **18. Smashbox** Photo Finish 24 Hour Shadow Primer ($20, smashbox.com). **19. Elemis** Pink Edition Pro-Radiance Illuminating Flash Balm ($50, elemis.com). **20. Healthy Sexy Hair** Caring Is Sexy Soya Want It All ($20, sexyhair.com). **21. Supersmile** Crystal Collection Pink Diamond Toothbrush ($15, supersmile.com). **22. Paddywax** Salted Grapefruit Relish Jar Candle ($20, paddywax.com). **23. iS Clinical** Poly-Vitamin Serum ($98, 1 oz, dermstore.com). **24. Ralph Lauren Fragrances** Midnight Romance Pink Pony Deluxe Eau de Parfum ($105, ralphlauren.com). **25. Tweezerman** Precision in Pink Neon Great Grip Lash Curler With Charm ($14, tweezerman.com). **26. GHD** Vintage Pink Paddle Brush ($55, Sephora). **27. Oribe** Limited Edition Dry Texturizing Spray ($42, oribe.com). **28. Deborah Lippmann** Nail Lacquer in Shape of My Heart ($18, Nordstrom). **29. Luzern Laboratories** Bio-Suisse Lash + Brow Enhancing Serum ($125, luzernlabs.com). **30. La Mer** The Lip Balm ($55, lamer.com). **31. Estée Lauder** Evelyn Lauder and Elizabeth Hurley Dream Pink Collection ($34, esteelauder.com).



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Emily is wearing New Eye Studio® Brow Define + Fill Duo in Soft Brown. ©2015 Maybelline LLC.





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-Lisa Price, Founder

#BORNandMADE



Crop Tops

Hairstylist Pekela Riley, owner of Salon^PK in Jacksonville, Florida, and a guru of short cuts in the South, is here to help you take the leap toward pixie prettiness

BY NYKIA SPRADLEY
PHOTOGRAPHY BY JOSHUA PESTKA

CHIEF ROCKER

Short hair can be your ticket to lots of fun, which is exactly what Riley illustrated with this flirty, curled look. The messiness gives it edge, while loose spirals add the perfect amount of dainty. After prepping hair with a heat-resistant thermal spray, Riley used a one-inch-barrel curling iron to create the spirals. To get the tousled look, she used a flat iron to drag the ends out, making them a little wispy and spiky.

HAIR, PEKELA RILEY/SALON^PK/KENBARBOZA.COM. MAKEUP, YUKO MIZUNO USING DIOR ADDICT/RONA REPRESENTS. MANICURE, MAYUMI ABUKU USING DIOR VERNIS/RONA REPRESENTS. FASHION EDITOR, JOIEE THORPE.

HAIR



FRO SHOW

If you're active, short hair can bring about all kinds of sweaty, gym-poof dilemmas. And if your hair is relaxed, you're probably thinking, *I can't do this style*. Well, your tresses are more versatile than you think. This look is all about creating more definition with what you already have. Riley used Mizani Moisture Milk to dampen natural strands and then did a chunky finger coil. She blew the hair with a diffuser attachment to set the style. To create even more definition (or to get the look on relaxed hair), she went in with a small-barrel curling iron on the ends. "If you want more length, stretch out the top or front while diffusing," says Riley. The shape and deep side part also add a contemporary twist. ▷



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SWOOP SWOOP

Update this slick throwback with a touch of volume at the crown, using a round brush and blow-dryer. Smooth out the rest with a flat iron. If you're concerned about the heat interfering with your curl pattern, apply a leave-in conditioner followed by a thermal protectant spray before blow-drying. What brings this spin on a mushroom cut into modern territory is a deliberate disconnect between the sleek top and shaved back. "If you're not ready to completely taper the back, you can achieve this edge with a smaller point of disconnect that starts lower down," says Riley. Make it closer to the nape of the neck.

TABLET EXTRAS See more cream of the crop.

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TRESS TREATS

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1. Whether he has curls or a fade, a quarter-size dollop of this will keep his haircut manageable. **FREDERICK BENJAMIN GROOMING Daily Hydrator Styling Crème ($12, 4.2 oz, shop.frederickbenjamin.com)**

2. Tie up that ponytail or bun with this band that won't snag or damage your strands. **INVISIBOBBLE ($8 for 3-pack, Urban Outfitters)**

3. Keep kiddie coils intact with a peach-scented, lightweight mousse. **SOCOZY Behave Styling Mousse ($12, socozy.com)**

4. This is perfect for weaves or your God-given tresses, as a heat protectant or shine aid. **BOHO EXOTIC STUDIO Exotic Oil Sheen ($20, bohoexoticstudio.com)**



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—PAMELA EDWARDS CHRISTIANI, BEAUTY & STYLE DIRECTOR

GROH Ergo Boost Hair & Scalp Conditioning Treatment and Daily Replenishing Supplement ($59 and $39, mygroh.com for salons)



"In addition to the cool gel oil formula, this lightweight hydrator is packed with frizz-taming, moisture-boosting essentials. I'm sold!"

—NYKIA SPRADLEY, BEAUTY EDITOR

CANTU Dry Deny Moisture Seal Gel Oil ($6, Sally Beauty Supply)

"This combo has my hair singing hallelujah! The two keep my curls super defined, springy, hydrated and soft."

—ANDREA JORDAN, ASSISTANT BEAUTY EDITOR

DEVACURL No-Poo Decadence and One Condition Decadence ($22 each, 12 oz, devacurl.com)





STILLS: JON PATERSON. EDWARDS CHRISTIANI, WARWICK SAINT. SPRADLEY AND JORDAN, MICHAEL ROWE.


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BLACK GIRL MAGIC

AUNJANUE ELLIS THRIVES ON TELLING OUR STORIES

BY MEKEISHA MADDEN TOBY

PHOTOGRAPHY BY SPENCER HEYFRON

With credits such as the widely lauded BET miniseries *The Book of Negroes* and next year's Nat Turner biopic *The Birth of a Nation*, Aunjanue Ellis makes no qualms about crossing over to the mainstream. "I love telling Black folks' stories and how we deal with issues," says Ellis, whose 20-year career also includes *Ray* and *The Help.* "I want to be a part of things that set the record straight about who we are." Look for Ellis, 46, to further her mission in the new FBI Academy–set political drama *Quantico* (airing September 27 on ABC). "I've been on so many shows and it's like, 'There's the Black woman.' That's not what this is," says Ellis, whose character is the anchor for *Quantico*'s protagonist, played by Bollywood star Priyanka Chopra. "The audience is forced to invest in these women in this wonderful way. My prayer is that we capitalize on that and exploit that to the max. It's exciting. Good or bad, I'm proud of it for that."

HAIR: DERICK MONROE. MAKEUP: COLBY SMITH/EXCLUSIVE ARTISTS. MANICURE: KELLY B. USING DIOR VERNIS/DE FACTO, INC. FOR CLOTHING DETAILS, SEE WHERE TO BUY.

SCENE

ESSENCE Picks the Emmy Winners

We place our bets on who should take home some of the top prizes on prime time's biggest night—September 20 BY CORI MURRAY AND YOLANDA SANGWENI

2015 EMMY NOMINATIONS



CORI vs YOLANDA



ESSENCE Entertainment Director Cori Murray @corimurray

ESSENCE.com Entertainment Editor Yolanda Sangweni @yolizama

OUTSTANDING LEAD ACTRESS IN A DRAMA SERIES

Claire Danes, *Homeland*; Viola Davis, *How to Get Away With Murder*; Taraji P. Henson, *Empire*; Tatiana Maslany, *Orphan Black*; Elisabeth Moss, *Mad Men*; Robin Wright, *House of Cards*



Viola Davis In every episode of *How to Get Away With Murder*, she gave a master class in acting.

Taraji P. Henson She's clearly 80 percent of the reason why we watch *Empire*. Taraji nailed this role and deserves all the accolades.



OUTSTANDING GUEST ACTRESS IN A DRAMA SERIES

Khandi Alexander, *Scandal*; Rachel Brosnahan, *House of Cards*; Allison Janney, *Masters of Sex*; Margo Martindale, *The Americans*; Diana Rigg, *Game of Thrones*; Cicely Tyson, *How to Get Away With Murder*



Cicely Tyson The legendary actor's one scene still gives me chills as she casually but lovingly tells the story of how she killed her daughter's molester.

Khandi Alexander This is by far one of her most memorable roles. I hope she wins so Shonda Rhimes can see just how much we need more Mama Pope.



OUTSTANDING SUPPORTING ACTOR IN A COMEDY SERIES

Andre Braugher, *Brooklyn Nine-Nine*; Tituss Burgess, *Unbreakable Kimmy Schmidt*; Ty Burrell, *Modern Family*; Adam Driver, *Girls*; Tony Hale, *Veep*; Keegan-Michael Key, *Key & Peele*



Keegan-Michael Key It's hard separating him from his equally talented partner, Jordan Peele, but Key's Obama anger translator, Luther, is way overdue for some Emmy love.

Tituss Burgess Every scene he appears in on *Unbreakable Kimmy Schmidt* had me in stitches. He's the comedy star we've been waiting for all this time.



OUTSTANDING SUPPORTING ACTRESS IN A LIMITED SERIES OR MOVIE

Angela Bassett, *American Horror Story: Freak Show*; Kathy Bates, *American Horror Story: Freak Show*; Zoe Kazan, *Olive Kitteridge*; Regina King, *American Crime*; Mo'Nique, *Bessie*; Sarah Paulson, *American Horror Story: Freak Show*



Mo'Nique From start to finish, she dug deep into her gritty portrayal of Ma Rainey, reminding us why she won an Oscar in the first place.

Mo'Nique I agree. She was brilliant in *Bessie*. Similar to what happened with Jamie Foxx in *Ray*, there were many moments I got lost in the character because I believed I was seeing Ma Rainey.



NATIVE SONS

IN *BEASTS OF NO NATION*, IDRIS ELBA'S AND NEWCOMER ABRAHAM ATTAH'S GRIPPING PERFORMANCES TAKE HOLD



Idris Elba (right) and Abraham Attah

There are many reasons to see *Beasts of No Nation*—a harrowing drama about boy soldiers drafted into a West African company of rebels—but it will be hard not to look away during some of its most savage scenes. Based on the novel of the same name by Uzodinma Iweala, the Netflix film (available to stream and in select theaters October 16) stars an intense Idris Elba as the monstrous Commandant—a role that will make even him difficult to watch. But the heart of the movie—directed by Cary Fukunaga (who has come a long way from working as a production assistant on Destiny's Child's "Survivor" video)—is 13-year-old Abraham Attah as Agu. Attah was chosen from more than 1,000 boys in Accra, Ghana. His debut performance is so compelling, you almost feel the world of pain in his eyes. When Agu is forced to inflict execution by machete—in one particularly graphic moment—Attah will cut you to the core. **—Chuck Arnold**

NOMINATIONS, CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: MICHAEL ROWE (2); JON KOPALOFF/FILMMAGIC; JASON MERRITT/GETTY IMAGES; JIM SPELLMAN/WIREIMAGE; BRENT N. CLARKE/FILMMAGIC (2); JOHN SHEARER/GETTY IMAGES; CINDY ORD/GETTY IMAGES FOR I HAVE A DREAM; JB LACROIX/WIREIMAGE. NATIVE SONS, COURTESY OF NETFLIX, INC.


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Tone Bell

JOKING FOR LOVE

HOT ACTOR ALERT: MEET TONE BELL

On NBC's new sitcom *Truth Be Told*, two couples discuss everything from race and sex to the possibility that their new babysitter is a porn star. Yup, they go there. Leading the laughter is Russell, played by comic Tone Bell. Named one of "10 Comics to Watch" by *Variety*, the Decatur, Georgia, native gives us the scoop on the show:

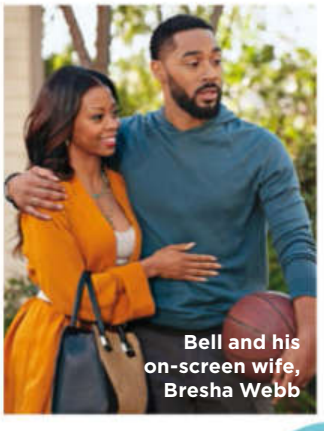
On the similarities between him and Russell: "There are only a few degrees difference between Russell and Tone. If Tone were to ever like, grow up and get married, then it would match up well."

On costar Mark-Paul Gosselaar (*Saved by the Bell*): "It's really cool working with a guy you grew up watching," says Bell, who has now transitioned from fan to friend.

His advice for young comedians: "It's important to stay in the street and make sure people know you're serious about it. You can't book four shows sitting on the couch."

His relationship status: "Very single." [*Laughs*]

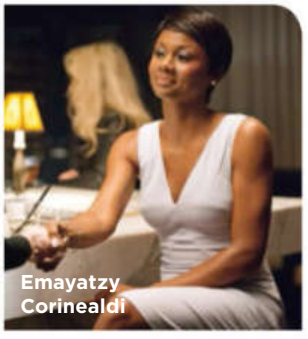
—Danielle Deavens


Bell and his on-screen wife, Bresha Webb

POWER SHIFT

Moving from the big screen to small, Emayatzy Corinealdi jumps on board Amazon's new series *Hand of God* **BY CORI MURRAY**

Three years ago, Emayatzy Corinealdi's breakout performance in Ava DuVernay's *Middle of Nowhere* made her an indie darling. Today she's back with another buzzy part in *Hand of God* (now streaming on Amazon). With reservation, and after much prayer, she has taken the most controversial role of her career to date. Corinealdi explains what pushed her to say yes.


Emayatzy Corinealdi

ESSENCE: *Hand of God*—is it a religious show?

EMAYATZY CORINEALDI: For me, it's about redemption and revenge. You have this person, this judge, who is morally corrupt, and he gives his life over to God and then you get to see what that looks like...the good and the bad of it.

ESSENCE: Your character is a call girl named Tessie, and her first scene involves her having sex with the headstrong judge, played by Ron Perlman. But the way she deals with him, she clearly has power over him.

CORINEALDI: Absolutely. That's what makes their dynamic so interesting. She has an incredible amount of influence on him and they trust each other.

ESSENCE: What made you think twice about taking this new role?

CORINEALDI: My managers know how I feel about nudity. I needed to make sure what my real motivation was for doing it. I prayed about it. I asked my husband. Once I did that, I knew this was a challenge I was ready to take on.

BELL: TOP: PHOTOGRAPHY: JAMES ANTHONY; STYLIST: APUJE KALU. BOTTOM: NBC. CORINEALDI: AMAZON STUDIOS.THEN, FROM LEFT: UNIVERSAL PICTURES/COURTESY NEAL PETERS COLLECTION; COLUMBIA PICTURES/COURTESY NEAL PETERS COLLECTION; NEW LINE CINEMA/COURTESY NEAL PETERS COLLECTION.NOW, FROM LEFT: GREGORY PETERS/NBC; FX NETWORKS; BOB MAHONEY/NBC.

PRIME-TIME PLAYERS

#TBT: Wesley Snipes, Cuba Gooding, Jr., and Larenz Tate

In the nineties, these actors were the boyfriends in our heads. This TV season, they're sure to pull in a new generation of fans on these debuts: Wesley Snipes in NBC's *The Player*, Cuba Gooding, Jr., in FX's *American Crime Story* and Larenz Tate in NBC's *Game of Silence.* Yes, they still got it.


THEN: 1990


THEN: 1991


THEN: 1997


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Dora Charles with one of her signature home-made treats

PAULA DEEN'S FORMER COOK HAS HER SAY

DORA CHARLES, WHO SAYS SHE HELPED BUILD A FOOD FRANCHISE, RELEASES HER OWN BOOK, *A REAL SOUTHERN COOK* **BY KATTI GRAY**

One-time Food Network star Paula Deen's culinary empire imploded in 2013, after she was sued for racial discrimination and sexual harassment by an employee who worked at one of her Savannah restaurants. (The lawsuit was later settled and dismissed.) What was little known then: Deen owed a part of her success to Dora Charles, 61, a Black woman whom Deen described as her "soul sister" and put in charge of the kitchen at the flagship spot, The Lady & Sons.

Since ending her 20-year tenure there in 2013—Charles left her job after confirming to the media that Deen had made racist remarks—Charles has continued to live in the double-wide Savannah trailer she once struggled to pay the mortgage on even while on Deen's payroll. In Charles's new cookbook, *A Real Southern Cook: In Her Savannah Kitchen* (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, $25), she shares recipes and tips from the handed-down South Carolina foodways of her sharecropper grandmother, Hattie Smith, who helped raise Charles after her mother died when Charles was 18 months old. Here, the first-time author dishes on food, family and never giving up.

ESSENCE: What prompted you to write this cookbook?
DORA CHARLES: It was always a thought. But, actually, having a restaurant was my first thought. I thought a restaurant would be somewhat like a family, and a place for family.

> *"If I didn't go through what I went through with her, I wouldn't be where I am right now."*

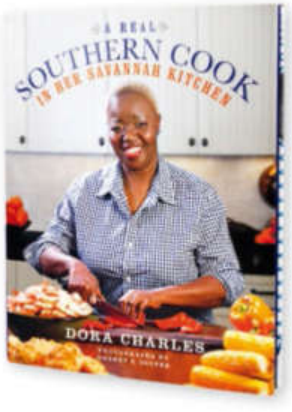
ESSENCE: Why is cooking so appealing to you?
D.C.: I can't remember not cooking. I cooked for my nieces and nephews. When I grew up, I was still cooking. I moved away from Savannah for a minute and came back and was looking for a job and found myself cooking breakfast at the Days Inn. That's where I started cooking for pay.

ESSENCE: What was your first big dish?
D.C.: Brown gravy. I made it when I was about 7 or 8, and my grandmother talked me through it. We didn't use any measurements. Food was my grandmother's gift to people who were sick and grieving. Now, I bake red velvet cakes and make baked spaghetti to give to grieving families.

ESSENCE: Regarding the Paula Deen fiasco, some people saw you as a shero.
D.C.: I did what I had to do, not looking to be rewarded but just telling the truth. I loved working all those years at The Lady & Sons. Although I had some bad times in that job, I also enjoyed it. The good times made it worthwhile for me to make it through every day.

Before I'd go in, I'd pray over things. I'd just ask the Lord to help me have a better day. When I stepped over the doorsill, I put a smile on my face so I wouldn't give myself high blood pressure.... I worked and I was so calm under the pressure. That's the advice I give to people: If it worked out for me, it can work out for you.

ESSENCE: Where do you stand with Paula Deen?
D.C.: I don't see as much of her. When I do see her, I speak. I don't hate her. I'm not trying to tear her eyes out. I feed her with a long-handled spoon. Like I said, if I didn't go through what I went through with her, I wouldn't be where I am right now. Everything happens for a reason.



CHARLES: ROBERT COOPER. BOOK STILL: TRACEY WOODS.







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3 tablespoons flour
1 cup fat-free milk
8 oz American cheese, cubed
½ package (13.5 oz) Johnsonville Premium Fully Cooked Sausage

Directions

1. Cook macaroni according to package directions; drain.
2. Meanwhile, in another saucepan, melt butter over medium heat.
3. Stir in flour until smooth; gradually whisk in milk.
4. Bring to a boil, stirring constantly. Cook and stir until thickened.
5. Add cheese; cook and stir until melted.
6. Stir in macaroni and sausage.

Eat, enjoy and have someone else do the dishes.

find more recipes at Johnsonville.com



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THE FORGOTTEN BLACK FEMINIST

The first-ever biography of a trailblazing activist at the forefront of two movements: civil and women's rights



Sherie M. Randolph brings Flo Kennedy to life in a new book.

RANDOLPH: KENNETH R. RANDOLPH. BOOK STILL: TRACEY WOODS.

You may not know Florynce Kennedy's name, but once you learn her story, you'll never forget her. In **Florynce "Flo" Kennedy: The Life of a Black Feminist Radical** (UNC Press, $30), scholar Sherie M. Randolph pieces together journal entries and family interviews to weave the personal history of an elusive yet spellbinding woman. Over 327 pages, Randolph successfully recounts Kennedy's dynamic life: bursting with stories of rebellion and triumph, with a backdrop of historical context and, always, a hint of mystery.



Kennedy, born in 1916, was raised by parents who encouraged sexual freedom and rarely disciplined their five daughters. Long before the creation of the term "intersectionality," as a Columbia University sophomore in the 1940's she already understood that Black women were at the crossroads of feminism and civil rights. For the rest of her days, Kennedy refused to choose between movements. Instead, she used her voice within both. One of the first Black women to graduate from Columbia University Law School, Kennedy opened a private practice in the early 1950's. Her firm won settlements for Billie Holiday's and Charlie Parker's estates.

Color Me Flo: My Hard Life and Good Times, Kennedy's 1976 memoir, was not the candid tale that readers may have hoped for. For Randolph, an Afroamerican and African studies assistant professor at the University of Michigan, the existence of that publication presented an intriguing challenge: How do you create a portrait of someone who wanted to control her life story? *"Flo"* finally reconciles the woman she was with how she wanted to be remembered. As Randolph puts it, "The core of Flo's story is a Black woman's effort to meld her family's lessons into coherent political weapons." **—Danielle Deavens**



Blake

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Blake, teenager, soccer player, heart recipient, with his mom, Robin

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10 THINGS WE'RE TALKING ABOUT

BY TAYLOR LEWIS

1 CHANGING THE CONVERSATION

Amandla Stenberg has something to say. *The Hunger Games* and *Mr. Robinson* actress captured our attention back in April when, as part of a class project, she uploaded a YouTube video criticizing White appropriation of Black culture. "What would America be like if it loved Black people as much as it loves Black culture?" the 16-year-old wondered. We spoke to Stenberg, a self-described "feminist since birth," to find out how she is using her platform to challenge media narratives and to provide a positive model for Black girls everywhere.

ISSUES

KAT IRLIN

ESSENCE: You've been vocal on social media about White celebrities co-opting Black culture. Many praised you for your courage in speaking up, but others didn't appreciate your message. How did you deal with the backlash?

AMANDLA STENBERG: I noticed that whenever I was trying to talk about social justice and how Black women are framed in the media, quite ironically, I would be framed in a certain way that would demonize me and take away the value of my point. That's a tool that is used repeatedly in the media: Whenever Black women have a point, they're characterized as Angry Black Women, and therefore the thing they're talking about is no longer of importance because they have to deal with them being overly emotional or something. I recognize that people who respond negatively to what I have to say aren't at a place yet where they are able to learn. And I know that that's not personal. That's unfortunately a product of society as a whole. And it's exactly what I'm trying to fight.

ESSENCE: Did your parents raise you to be socially conscious?

STENBERG: My mom is a really powerful artist, creator and writer and a really smart Black woman, so she has always set an example for me and taught me how to express myself through words and other mediums. I feel like when I was younger—even though I may not have been conscious [of it]—I fought my hair and I fought who I was...to try to conform, or shy away from my Blackness. Now that I'm growing older, I find that my source of power comes from my identity and ethnicity.

ESSENCE: In speaking out about these issues, what do you hope to have happen?

STENBERG: My larger goal is to affect and empower more Black girls, because I know how important it has been to me to see representations of myself out there through role models like Ava DuVernay and Laverne Cox and FKA twigs—artists who are inspiring and creative and carefree. Even though the response to what I've talked about isn't always necessarily positive, I've thought to myself, *Wow, it's so incredible that we are even having those conversations and that that was my doing*. I felt so honored and proud that I could even bring these important things to the forefront.



2 A RENEWED FIGHT

Twenty years ago, Nation of Islam leader Louis Farrakhan called on Black men to convene on the National Mall for the historic **Million Man March**. This month, Farrakhan and civil rights organization Justice or Else are summoning a new generation of men to Washington, D.C., on October 10 for an anniversary march.

3 OUTSIDE AUTHORITY

This past summer, New York became the first state to appoint an independent special prosecutor to investigate any police-related civilian deaths. Attorney General Eric Schneiderman is looking into **the death of Raynette Turner**, a Black mother who died in a Mount Vernon jail in July.

4 NEW WHEELS

Dozens of low-income families in Los Angeles are getting new rides. The city was awarded a **$1.6 million grant that will provide the families with 100 cars**—80 of which are electric—to share. Individuals will be able to reserve cars when they become available next year.



5 HAVING IT ALL

A recent Harvard study found that **37 percent of millennial women are planning on taking a break in their careers** to spend time with their families. That number is significantly higher than the 28 percent of Gen X women and 17 percent of Baby Boomers who would do the same.

6 CLIMBING THE RANKS



NYPD veteran Kim Royster, 52, was recently named assistant chief, making her the **highest-ranking Black female official** in the department's history. In her new position, Royster is responsible for overseeing the recruitment and hiring of officials.



7 TRACKING BLACK LIVES MATTER

CIVIL RIGHTS WATCH

According to First Look Media, an investigative Web site, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has been **tracking protest locations and social media accounts of highly visible BLM activists**, like DeRay McKesson and Johnetta Elzie. A DHS spokesperson says the department is doing so legally.

8 JUSTICE SERVED

When a cab driver refused to pick up Cynthia Jordan and her 17-year-old daughter in 2013, the accounting executive filed a complaint. In it, she describes the driver locking his doors and claiming he was off-duty when she tried to enter the vehicle, before driving 25 feet to pick up two White women. This past August, a judge **ordered the driver to pay Jordan $10,000 in emotional distress damages** and $15,000 in civil fines.



9 SLOWLY BUT SURELY

HP is doing its part to diversify Silicon Valley. In August, the tech giant named two Black women—Pamela Carter, former president of engine manufacturer Cummins Distribution, and Stacy Brown-Philpot, the current COO of the job pairing company TaskRabbit—to two of its boards. Their appointments, along with those of two other women, make **HP's boards the most diverse of any American tech company**.

10

"To be Black and woman and alive is to be resilient. My very existence is defiance."

—Crystal Valentine and Aaliyah Jihad, New York University student poets and cochampions of the 2015 College Unions Poetry Slam Invitational.



For the latest news, follow ESSENCE Features Editor Lauren N. Williams on Twitter @LAURNWILLIAMS.

2. PORTER GIFFORD/LIAISON/GETTY IMAGES. 4. ROBERT CHURCHILL/GETTY IMAGES. 6. STEVE SANDS/GETTY IMAGES. 7. SCOTT OLSON/GETTY IMAGES. 8. KENDALL RODRIGUEZ. WILLIAMS, MICHAEL ROWE.



Black women are three times more likely to have an abortion than White women.

PROTECTING OUR REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS

THE ASSAULT ON PLANNED PARENTHOOD AND OTHER WOMEN'S HEALTH CARE CENTERS IS GAINING TRACTION. HERE'S WHAT WE'RE FACING **BY ZERLINA MAXWELL**

Imagine having to travel 100 miles just to get birth control. Or, as one Texas woman experienced, needing an abortion and having to sleep overnight in an RV with your husband and three kids during a mandatory 24-hour waiting period because the closest clinic is 150 miles away.

These scenarios are becoming a reality for more and more American women as conservative politicians continue their assault on women's health care access. While the right to choose may still technically be legal, a woman in need of health care will face widely different obstacles depending on the state she lives in. Since 2010, the attacks on abortion clinics have had the added impact of stripping away access to subsidized services—including contraception, annual exams and prenatal care—all of which are disproportionately sought out by Black women.

According to the Guttmacher Institute, 17 states have enacted some 51 laws restricting access to abortion services in the first half of 2015. These laws, including enforced waiting periods, bans on abortions after the first trimester and burdensome requirements called Targeted Regulation of Abortion Provider laws, have had the effect of closing clinic doors, leaving millions of American women without access, not only to abortion but also to care that would prevent unintended pregnancies. Waiting periods are required in 28 states; in 13 of them, women face a "two trip" hurdle—where they are required to go to the clinic first for counseling and a second time for the procedure.

"It's almost as if we are beyond the worst states for abortion access; instead it is the worst regions for access. Just over half the states can be considered hostile or extremely hostile to abortion rights. The most hostile regions are the South and the middle of the country," says Elizabeth Nash, senior state issues associate at the Guttmacher Institute.

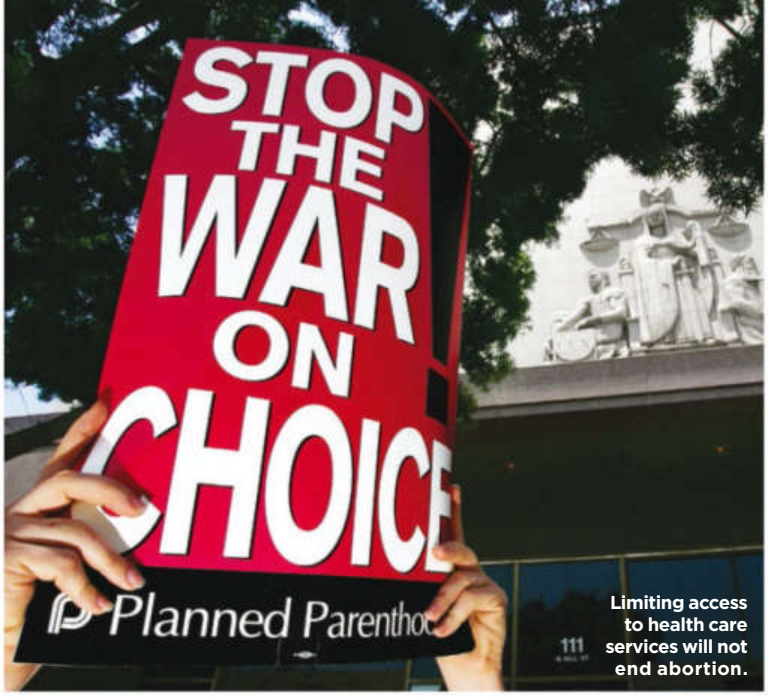
In Texas, a state where 1.8 million women seek publicly funded reproductive care services, 26 clinics have shuttered their doors, leaving just 10 standing. Last year, as a result of a controversial law that required clinics to abide by strict regulations (such as acquiring the same admitting privileges as hospitals), the state saw the closing of Whole Women's Health clinic in Beaumont. Consequently, there are no clinics left between New Orleans and Houston, two cities with huge populations of Black women. In four states, Mississippi, North Dakota, South Dakota and Wyoming, only one abortion clinic remains.

Louisiana, which is among the states with the highest rates of uninsured people in the country, has seen abortion opponents block the development of a new state-of-the-art Planned Parenthood facility in New Orleans. Pro-lifers, including Governor Bobby Jindal, cite the abortions Planned Parenthood provide as the reasoning behind their protest, even though abortions account for just 3 percent of its services. The project's delay will result in thousands of women not having access to contraception, making the need for abortion care more likely and the service less accessible. ▷

> **"Just over half of the 50 states can be considered hostile to abortion rights."**
> —ELIZABETH NASH

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Limiting access to health care services will not end abortion.

In June, the U.S. Supreme Court issued a stay blocking enforcement of the provisions in Texas' House Bill 2. That law, which was famously filibustered by State Senator Wendy Davis, is now prime for a challenge that may put the future of abortion access in jeopardy. The legal standard of undue burden, which is defined as "a substantial obstacle in the path of a woman seeking an abortion before the fetus attains viability," could be reconsidered.

"A low-income woman of color working a minimum wage job to make ends meet probably doesn't have as much time to take off multiple days to have an abortion," says Raegan McDonald-Mosley, chief medical officer at Planned Parenthood Federation of America. "And if the health center is several towns away, how will she afford the travel expenses on top of missing work? If she has children, child care becomes an obstacle. In states where they've cut funding to health centers that provide quality, affordable health care, if a woman doesn't have a flexible job or child care, a simple checkup, cancer screening, pap smear or birth control consultation becomes a greater challenge. Without insurance or affordable providers in close proximity to where she lives, she is forced to put her health care on the back burner because it's too costly and out of reach."

Even though advocates and allies are fighting legislative battles on the state level to maintain reproductive access for all women, the unease around sex and abortion isn't isolated to statehouses. Some African-American churches contribute to a climate of shame that can lead to a lack of resources for sex education and can put Black women in a precarious position. The effect of all these factors is that Black women have higher rates of unintended pregnancies than White women and are three times more likely to have an abortion, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Black communities are flooding the streets protesting the inhumane treatment of the children we choose to have, but some of us are failing to see the connection and understand abortion access as an issue of bodily autonomy. Religious rules around sex and abortion in Black communities can make talking about these issues, even with close family and friends, harder, and that allows for the rampant spread of misinformation about how to access contraception services.

Limiting access to health care services will not end abortion. A global study conducted by the World Health Organization found that less access to abortion services doesn't actually lower the abortion rate, it just makes terminating a pregnancy more dangerous for poor women. But abortion opponents argue that they are concerned with protecting women's health and thus conclude that many of these restrictive laws are necessary.

Another way anti-choice groups have tried to prevent abortion access is through the deluge of attacks on Planned Parenthood this past summer. In July, abortion opponents released secretly recorded videos allegedly showing representatives of Planned Parenthood negotiating costs for fetal tissue research. The controversy around these videos led Congress to vote again on defunding the women's health care provider, but the measure failed. Despite these attacks, 45 percent of Americans still have a favorable view of Planned Parenthood, according to an NBC News/*The Wall Street Journal* poll.

> **"Being able to control your own body is about dignity and humanity."**
> —EESHA PANDIT

The abortion rate is the lowest since 1973, yet opponents continue to work to increase restrictions to prevent even more women from accessing the procedure. "Our opposition has preyed upon the lack of access and the lack of resources. They are perpetuating this misinformation culture where people think that their legal rights don't actually matter. It's more dangerous for a woman to drive five hours than it is for her to get an abortion," says Amy Hagstrom Miller, founder and CEO of Whole Woman's Health.

With the recent targeting of Planned Parenthood, abortion opponents have forced the fight over abortion access to expand beyond the historical debate over choice and into the broader area of contraception. Without these preventive measures, Black women could face desperate situations. "The reality is that abortion access is one very important piece of a big puzzle," says Eesha Pandit, copresident of the board of the National Network of Abortion Funds. "For low-income women of color, there are many challenges on a day-to-day basis: racism, sexism, poverty and an inadequate education. In this mix, being able to control your own body is not just an abstract right, it's about dignity and humanity itself." ☐

Zerlina Maxwell is an ESSENCE contributor, political analyst, writer and TV commentator.

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Ready, Set, Invest!

Getting into the stock market is not as difficult or intimidating as you might think. Read our primer and get ready to make your money multiply

BY TAMARA E. HOLMES

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MONEY &
POWER

If there's a deal to be had, a Black woman will find it. If there's a dollar to be stretched, we'll have a creative solution to make it happen. But when it comes to investing our money to grow our wealth, we're lagging dangerously behind. While 45 percent of single White women own stock, only 23 percent of single African-American women do, according to the Center for Global Policy Solutions. Couple that with the findings of a 2013 study, which reported that Black women between 51 and 61 had a median net worth of $33,349 compared with White women who had $182,897, and we've got a real problem. Two of the biggest reasons women give for not investing are that "they don't know enough and don't have enough experience," says Kristen Robinson, a senior vice-president with Fidelity. But learning the ropes isn't as hard as it may seem. Tear out our cheat sheet and get ready to make your money work for you.

UNDERSTANDING THE NUTS AND BOLTS

HERE'S A QUICK GUIDE TO THE ABC'S OF INVESTING:

- A **stock** is partial ownership in a company. If the company's stock rises after you buy it, you make money. However, if the company performs poorly and loses value on the stock market, you could lose part or all of your initial investment.
- Some stocks pay **dividends**, meaning the company you invest in agrees to pay you a portion of its profits on a periodic basis such as quarterly or annually. Stocks are considered **growth investments** because they have the potential to give you a high return on your money. However, the greater the potential for growth, the greater risk that you could lose some of your money.
- A **bond** is nothing more than a loan. You agree to lend a certain amount to a company and it agrees to pay you back with interest. For example, you may buy a $1,000 bond from a company that agrees to pay your $1,000 back in ten years plus 7 percent in interest each year. A bond is less risky than a stock, but if the company that issued your bond goes bankrupt, you could lose your investment.
- Bonds are considered **income investments** because while they typically don't give you a high return, they produce a steady flow of income in the form of interest. With income investments, there is less risk of losing your money.
- **Certificates of deposit** (CDs) and **money market accounts** are considered **cash equivalents**. These are the safest investments, but they also offer the lowest return.
- A **mutual fund** is a group of stocks and bonds chosen by investment professionals and pooled together. If you buy shares in the fund, those shares rise and fall based on their collective performance. Since mutual funds can contain hundreds of stocks and bonds, "You're going to get more diversification than you'd be able to create on your own if you buy individual stocks," says Jacquette M. Timmons, financial behaviorist, CEO and president of Sterling Investment Management, Inc. However, when you buy and sell shares you may pay fees that help cover the fund manager's salary.

3 STEPS TO GETTING STARTED

1. If you have a retirement account, such as a 401(k), a 403(b) or an IRA, you're already investing. Instead of tossing your next statement aside, make sure your portfolio has the asset allocation you desire.

2. If you don't have a retirement account, start one. Some companies will match what you save in your retirement account up to a certain percentage. If yours is one of them, invest at least up to the match. Investing 10 percent of your income is a reasonable goal to strive for, says Jennifer "J.B." Bryan, president and chief investment officer of J.B. Bryan Investment Group in Glen Allen, Virginia. But as your income grows, consider upping that percentage another 3 percent a year. If you don't have that much to invest, even "$50 a month will make a difference over time," Bryan says.

3. Once you're maxing out your 401(k) ($18,000 per year for 2015) or IRA ($5,500 for 2015), if you have more money to invest, you're ready to open up a separate investment account (see Selecting a Brokerage).

3 QUESTIONS TO ASK BEFORE YOU INVEST

1. WHAT DO I NEED THE MONEY FOR?
Identifying a financial goal will help you determine how much you need to accumulate.

2. WHEN WILL I NEED TO CASH IN?
Investing for a retirement that's 25 years away would call for a different approach than investing to pay for a child's education in seven years. The further away the goal, the more time you have for the stock market to fall and recover, meaning you can afford to have a portfolio of more growth-oriented investments. "If you have a goal that you're looking to achieve within five years or less, those funds should never be in the stock market," Timmons says.

3. HOW MUCH RISK CAN I TAKE?
There's no right or wrong answer. But if your stomach drops at the thought of possibly losing 10 percent of your money, you might have fewer growth investments. (See our quiz to determine where on the risk spectrum you fall.) ▷

TIP

Dollar-cost averaging is a strategy in which you invest a certain amount, such as $100, in regular intervals, on a monthly basis. When stock prices are high, you buy fewer shares, but when they go down you can buy more.





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VICKS

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Historically, the stock market has provided about 10 percent in annual returns, according to the Securities and Exchange Commission. The average money market and savings accounts have a return of 0.09 percent, according to bankrate.com. If you have $1,000 today, let's see what you would have over time using those averages.

	If you saved it, you'd have	If you invested it, you'd have
5 years	$1,004.51	$1,610.51
10 years	$1,009.04	$2,593.74
20 years	$1,018.15	$6,727.50

CHOOSING THE RIGHT STOCKS

You wouldn't give your coworker $1,000 to start a business that you knew nothing about. Apply that same level of due diligence to companies that you're thinking about investing in. Find out how the firm's products are doing, whether analysts expect the company to grow and whether its earnings have met or exceeded expectations in the past.

OTHER WAYS TO EDUCATE YOURSELF

- **Read business newspapers and magazines.** Pay particular attention to news about industries and corporations you're interested in.
- **Consider the human factor.** Research the people who are managing the companies you want to invest in and the leaders in your target industries.
- **Start an investment club.** Share the research responsibilities by forming an investment club and assigning each member a company to explore. The National Association of Investors Corp. shares advice on starting a club at betterinvesting.org.

SELECTING A BROKERAGE

Online brokerages let you research and manage your investments on your own. Here's how some of them stack up:

Online Broker	Minimum to invest	Cost per trade	Web site
Capital One Investing	None	$6.95	capitaloneinvesting.com
E*TRADE	$500	$9.99	etrade.com
Fidelity	None for mutual funds; $2,500 for stock trades	$7.95	fidelity.com
Schwab	$1,000	$8.95	schwab.com
Scottrade	$2,500	$7.00	scottrade.com
TD Ameritrade	None	$9.99	tdameritrade.com

TIP

"Don't let any one stock make up more than 5 to 10 percent of your portfolio."

—Robin Young, creator of Women Behaving Wealthy

QUIZ: HOW MUCH RISK CAN YOU TAKE?

1. When will you need the money you are currently investing?
A. In 20 years.
B. In 10 years.
C. In 5 years.

2. Say you had $100,000 in the stock market and the market went down 40 percent leaving you with $60,000. What would be your reaction?
A. I'd be okay with it. I know it would come back higher than before.
B. I wouldn't like it, but I wouldn't worry too much since it would probably come back.
C. I'd curse myself for being so foolish.

3. How much money do you have for emergencies?
A. I have an emergency fund with 6 to 12 months' worth of expenses.
B. I have an emergency fund with 3 to 6 months' of expenses.
C. I have a credit card.

4. How confident are you about your future income?
A. I expect my income to double in the next couple of years.
B. I think my income will either stay the same or rise.
C. I'm not in a stable job.

SCORING
Mostly A's: You're comfortable and can afford to take more risk. Consider growth investments.
Mostly B's: You're at ease with the risk associated with growth investments, but you may feel more secure with a balanced number of income and cash equivalents in the mix as well.
Mostly C's: Fewer growth investments and more income and cash equivalents are best if you'll need the money in a short period of time.

3 SECTORS TO WATCH

Eugene Profit, CEO and portfolio manager of Profit Investment Management, shares where investors might gain an edge in 2016

1. Consumer sector. Consumer sentiment should improve, driven by falling unemployment and lower gas prices.

2. Technology sector. Companies that offer cloud-based services are expected to do well.

3. Financial sector. Investors are anticipating a rate hike from the Federal Reserve Board. □





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SHONDA RHIMES RUNS THURSDAY NIGHT TV. SHE'S BUILT AN EMPIRE BY BRINGING IMAGINARY WORLDS TO LIFE ON-SCREEN. NOT ONLY IS SHE A LEADING CREATOR AND SHOWRUNNER, BUT SHE HAS ALSO CULTIVATED A TIGHT-KNIT FAMILY BETWEEN THE CASTS OF *GREY'S ANATOMY, SCANDAL AND HOW TO GET AWAY WITH MURDER*. WE GO INSIDE...

THE HOUSE THAT SHONDA BUILT

BY BENÉ VIERA
PHOTOGRAPHY BY NINO MUÑOZ



WASHINGTON: HAIR, TAKISHA STU DIVANT/KENBARBOZA.COM; MAKEUP, TYRON MACHUSSEN/THE WALL GROUP. DAVIS: HAIR, GISELLE MODESTE/EPIPHANY ARTIST GRO INC.; MAKEUP, LUCKY SMYLER FOR MAC COSMETICS/EPIPHANY A IST GROUP, INC. GLAM TOUCH-UPS: HAIR; DERICK MONRO AND KERRIE URBAN. MAKEUP.

No one can stop laughing. Thirty-five *Grey's Anatomy*, *Scandal* and *How to Get Away With Murder* actors are gathered for a photo shoot that feels more like a family reunion. All three casts in one room is an unprecedented moment. Kerry Washington places her ankle boot on costar Scott Foley's leg. He playfully grabs her calf that is resting on his lower



AYINDE CASTRON AND COLBY SMITH, EXCLUSIVE ARTISTS MANAGEMENT. GROOMING, TIA DANIELLE/TIADANTZLER.COM AND MELISSA DEZERATE. HAIR, VERNON SCOTT. SUPPORT WARDROBE, DORCIA KELLY JAMES. KNOX AND ZOEY WASHINGTON

A **Time Inc.** first: The casts of ABC's #TGIT were shot exclusively in collaboration with ESSENCE, *Entertainment Weekly* and *People* on May 12, 2015.

leg and within seconds The New York Palace's opulent Martin Katz Jewel Suite is filled with a harmonious "Yaaasssssss!" The visible camaraderie is a result of Rhimes's "no asshole" policy. "I like the fact that we all get along," she says. "I feel like you're supposed to be happy at work. If you're not happy at work, then you are in the wrong job or your job is doing something wrong." ▷



BOSS LADY
Shonda wears a custom **Michael Costello** gown, **Erickson Beamon** bracelet and **Arme De L'Amour** ring.

Hair, Carla Gentry/Only Agency. **Makeup**, Renee Garnes/Artists at Wilhelmina Image Board. **Manicure**, Deborah Lippmann. **Stylist**, James Knox.

It's a brisk but sunny afternoon. Shonda Rhimes poses against a backdrop of the New York City skyline 55 stories high in a chic black-and-white ensemble poised in black Christian Louboutin pumps. She's still getting used to the glitz of being the camera's subject. On set she's quiet but friendly. While her glam team adds final touches, her writer instincts hone in on me—the other writer in the room taking notes in the corner. "What are you doing?" she asks jokingly. Later, underneath the cascading diamond chandelier, she sits cross-legged on the floor while holding a glass of white wine as she chats with people in the room. On our way to a quieter suite across the hall, she doles out hugs before plopping down on the sofa and resting her loafers comfortably on the wooden coffee table. It's easy to forget you're talking to one of the most important showrunners in TV. She's far from intimidating for a woman who runs ABC's Thursday night lineup helming two of her own shows (*Grey Anatomy*'s and *Scandal*) and serving as an executive producer of Peter Nowalk's *How to Get Away With Murder* (*HTGAWM*). Her warmth is almost surprising.

The reported eight-figure deal she signed with ABC will keep her at the network through 2018, but she doesn't feel pressure to exceed anyone's expectations. "It's really hard to get someone to criticize the stuff," she says, pushing up the sleeves of her powder blue sweater, which is paired with blue jeans. "It's really hard to get someone to say, 'I don't like that.' Or, 'I don't want to buy that.' They want to and they're very excited to. It already has my name on it, so they're more likely to be for it. So there's nothing to fight for. I was much more nervous when I was starting out. Like, *How am I gonna get there? I desperately want to get there*. I think it's only been about six months that I actually realized, *Oh, wait, you might be here*."

Her road to getting here is no overnight success. The youngest of six who grew up in the suburbs of Chicago to academic parents, Rhimes recalls writing as young as 4 when she'd speak her stories into a tape recorder for her mother to transcribe. Following her graduation from Dartmouth and University of Southern California, respectively, Rhimes took a variety of jobs in L.A. before landing one as a research director for the 1995 Peabody Award–winning documentary *Hank Aaron: Chasing the Dream*. In 1999 she cowrote the screenplay for HBO's *Introducing Dorothy Dandridge* starring Halle Berry, who would later win a Golden Globe for her performance. Next up was 2002's *Crossroads* starring Britney Spears, and in 2004 she wrote *The Princess Diaries 2: Royal Engagement*. The medical drama *Grey's Anatomy*, starring Chandra Wilson as Dr. Miranda Bailey, was her first foray into network television. A whopping 16 million viewers tuned in to ABC for the show's debut. At the time no one could foresee Rhimes was shattering the proverbial glass ceiling, with Wilson arguably opening the door for Washington to lead *Scandal* and Viola Davis to star in *HTGAWM*. Washington notes, "There would be no TGIT if it wasn't for [*Grey*'s] original cast members." And with *Grey's*, ShondaLand was born. Her production company has produced six shows, three of which she created.

Of all her roles, Rhimes says she's a writer at heart. Her creative process is not methodical, it's instinctive. There are no outlines or storyboards. She had thought about *Scandal* a year before actually writing the pilot. To meet that season's pilot deadline she flew to Mexico, checked into a hotel and wrote for four days straight in a tiny room. "Once it's in my brain, it clicks, and I go, *Okay, I'm done*," she says. "And I can write it 'cause it's fully cooked first in my head."

When *Scandal* premiered in 2012, it was an instant hit. Washington made history as the first Black female lead on a prime-time network drama since Teresa Graves starred in *Get Christie Love!* in 1974. The organic social media engagement of *Scandal* fans and the show's actors live-tweeting during every episode were a game changer. But success didn't protect the program from critics who argue Olivia Pope isn't the best portrayal of Black women. "If I get one more tweet that Olivia Pope [means I'm] calling all Black ▷

> ***How am I gonna get there? I desperately want to get there.* I think it's only been about six months that I actually realized, *Oh, wait, you might be here.*** —Shonda Rhimes

women whores," says Rhimes, 45, as she expresses her frustration with role model culture. "I'm sorry, Olivia Pope is not all Black women. We're not role models, and we're not trying to teach anybody a lesson. Equality will occur when people stop expecting one character to represent everybody."

Washington admires this: "That's the gift of Shonda-Land—you don't have to pick. Human beings are allowed to be complicated. We all have days where we are winning, whether it's an election or whatever else, and we all have days that we are hiding, whether it's in the bottle or in something else."

Davis has similar reasons for signing on to play Annalise Keating. "What drew me to the character was her mess and her mystery," she says of starring in *HTGAWM*. "Because with mystery, there is an opportunity to peel off the layers as each season goes by. And with the mess, I think what's introduced is that with Black women, we're just as complicated as anyone else." Seeing Olivia Pope on TV gave *HTGAWM* star Aja Naomi King the confidence to portray Michaela Pratt. "As a human being and as a woman, [I think] it's revolutionary for me to be able to step into this kind of role, and I hope it's revolutionary for some other young girl watching it to think, *That could be me one day*."

Rhimes has single-handedly revolutionized TV. Her characters not only run the racial and ethnic gamut, but gay characters are more than sassy sidekicks. Her older characters have vibrant sex lives, which *Grey's* star James Pickens, Jr., says is rare for Black actors. "She's totally self-deprecating and humble, and I think at her very core she's a writer," says Pickens. "Shonda's a storyteller who ▷

"Shonda's a storyteller who 10 years ago had this wonderful project called *Grey's Anatomy*, and it changed the landscape of television." —James Pickens, Jr.





DOCTOR, DOCTOR
This page: Chandra wears a **Pascal Millet** dress, **Yael Sonia** earrings, **Kimberly McDonald** rings and **Pedro García** sandals.

Opposite page: (From left) On Jerrika: a **Vionnet** jacket and shorts, **Jennifer Fisher** choker and **Chopard** diamond polar bear ring. Top, stylist's own. On Jason: a **Ralph Lauren Black Label** tuxedo, **American Apparel** tee, **Miansai** cuff and **Movado** gold watch. On Kelly: a custom **James Knox** dress. Earrings, stylist's own. On James: a **Ralph Lauren Black Label** tuxedo, **Eton** shirt and **Movado** watch. Ring, his own.

Chandra: **Hair**, Ursula Stephen/Motions. **Makeup**, Merrell Hollis/kenbarboza.com. **Manicure**, Deborah Lippmann. **Stylist**, Zoey Washington. Jerrika: **Hair**, Derrick Scurry/kenbarboza.com. **Makeup**, Fatima Thomas/MAC Cosmetics. Jason and James: **Hair**, Vernon Scott. **Grooming**, Tia Dantzler/tiadantzler.com. McCreary: **Hair**, Tiffany Daughtery/Epiphany Artist Group, Inc. **Makeup**, Frank Guyton/kenbarboza.com. **Manicure**, Deborah Lippmann. **Stylist**, Zoey Washington.

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6 TIPS

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Inspiration doesn't strike if you just sit still, the first step to any success story is simply to start—identify your goal and the road map you need to achieve it.

2 EMBRACE THE JOURNEY
Take your eyes off the final destination for a moment and just enjoy the ride. Soak up experiences exploring the world and use them to enhance your everyday life.

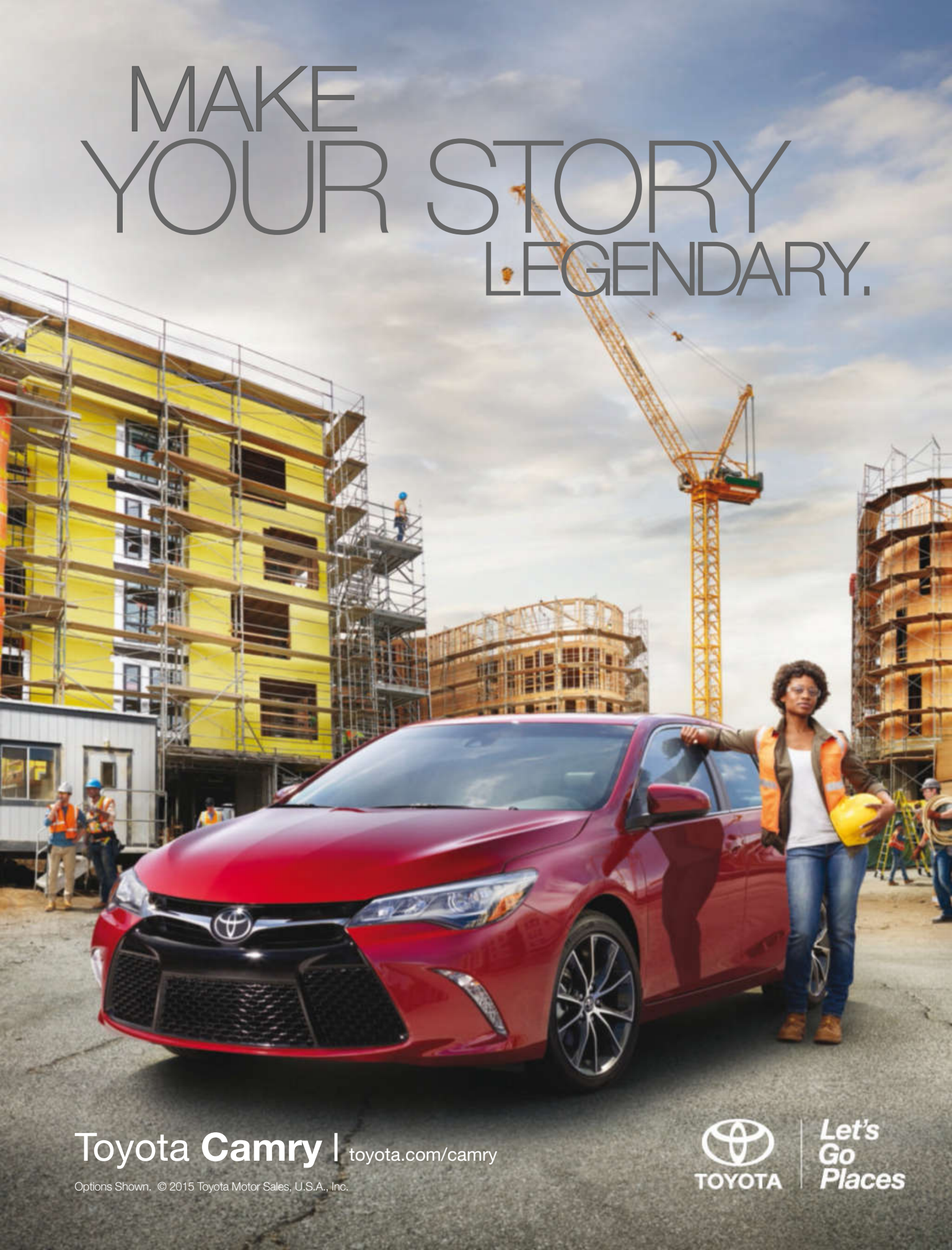
3 PAVE A NEW PATH
Embrace your individuality. Surprise and delight by showing off your unexpected side—or sides. You'll instantly transform an unscripted life into a story you can't wait to tell.

4 FUEL YOURSELF
Don't let your passions pass you by. Work on your dreams as diligently as you do your day job, you'll find time for everything—9-5 in the office and off hours as an artist or musician.

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IT'S HANDLED
Kerry wears a **Kalmanovich** top, **Giulietta** skirt and **Stuart Weitzman** heels.

Hair, Takisha Sturdivant/ kenbarboza.com. **Makeup**, Jenna Menard/Art Department. **Manicure**, Deborah Lippmann. **Stylist**, Zoey Washington.

It's been really powerful for me to work for a working mom. To have Shonda as an example of somebody who is living life fully and attempting to bring the best version of herself to so many different areas of her life has been really powerful for me. —Kerry Washington

10 years ago had this wonderful project called *Grey's Anatomy*, and it changed the landscape of television."

Earlier this year, *Scandal* broke new ground with an episode inspired by the uprising in Ferguson, Missouri, that began in August 2014 after an unarmed Michael Brown, Jr., was killed by a police officer. Rhimes wrote "The Lawn Chair" with writer Zahir McGhee after being unable to get the imagery out of her head: "I woke up and said, 'This is what we're gonna write about today.' The thing that bugged me the most was how jaded I was. *Oh, it's happening again*. That was really disgusting to me that we kind of all feel that way. I also felt that the national conversation was completely wrong. We were having this conversation about something in such a strange way, and it felt like White people were having one conversation and Black people were having another conversation, and that was crazy as well. This was a story; the idea of this man with a lawn chair over the body of his son and a shotgun in his hand was not something that I could let go. I couldn't get that story out of my head, and there was no way I could not tell it."

When she's not walking back and forth between writers' rooms, she's running a well-oiled machine. Jason George, who plays Chandra Wilson's husband on *Grey's*, says the boss is about results. "She's like, 'Well, that's a hell of a problem. We need to get that fixed.' And when she says it, you know that your job is now to fix that," he says, laughing. "Everything else stops and you need to come back to her with a response of how that's gonna get done." *HTGAWM* star Billy Brown adds that there are "no jackasses running around" and that "ShondaLand, as it is, knows what it's doing from top to bottom." He took on the role of Nate Lahey solely because of Rhimes's track record and the chance to work with Davis. *Grey's* Kelly McCreary says her boss is resilient. "She knows how to roll with the punches, and is able to make really bold choices about her shows and the characters and do what she knows is right for the show," says McCreary.

But being a showrunner, writer, producer, director and dragon slayer has not hardened her. Employees gloatingly describe her as "supportive" and "good people" and "humble." "Being human is important. I prize that above everything else, which is why I admire that Shonda is so human in the midst of all this grandeur," says *Grey's* Jerrika Hinton.

The respect and admiration of those who work for her translates to the kinship they have with their costars. *HTGAWM* stars King and Alfred Enoch have a brother and sister relationship offscreen, but Enoch can't stand King's character on-screen. "I just find her awful. Aja takes Michaela Pratt's side, and I think that in itself is an exercise of mental agility. It speaks wonders to her commitment and sheer bloody-minded partiality," Enoch says in his thick British accent. Working for the woman who built a ratings juggernaut is rife with invaluable life lessons that have also served them well in Hollywood. From the ShondaLand veteran Wilson to newcomer Davis, they all agree they're better for having worked under her leadership.

"The thing I learned the most from her is not to be afraid of yes," says Wilson. "I see her exemplify that all of the time in her professional and personal life. If I had been afraid of yes, then I wouldn't be directing on TV. I've directed 12 episodes of *Grey's* now. It's powerful to say yes to life sometimes, even when it makes you afraid." Davis says she's learned "to speak up. She does not edit herself. What is progressive—what brings people into the twenty-first century—is always someone who's just willing to be brave and honest."

Rhimes mothers many, but when she walks out of the editor's room, she goes home to her three daughters: Harper, Emerson and Beckett. (Rhimes adopted Harper in 2002, Emerson in 2012 and welcomed Beckett through surrogacy in 2013.) Please don't ask her how she balances it all. "It's a stupid question," she says pointedly when asked why she loathes the question. "Nobody ever asks a man how they balance it all. Men go to work and take care of their families all the time. So when people ask women, 'How do you go to work and take care of your family?' you're somehow suggesting I am not as capable as a man. You're somehow suggesting that I don't have as many skills as a man, and you're also suggesting ▷

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I am neglecting my life at home. That I find really insulting and not gender equal."

Ultimately Rhimes understands there is a balancing act working mothers must do. Instead of staying in Manhattan for a couple more days, she's flying home for her daughter's dance recital. As a fairly new mom, Washington is in awe of watching Rhimes seemingly do it all. "It's been really powerful for me to work for a working mom," says Washington. "To have her as an example of somebody who is living life fully and attempting to bring the best version of herself to so many different areas of her life has been really powerful for me."

A decade ago Rhimes imagined a fictitious world as diverse as the real one. Her ambition brought it to life with a group of people who now consider each other family. "It's like working for Motown, right?" Wilson asks rhetorically. Having built the Motown of television, Rhimes is finally taking in the view from the mountaintop.

"We're standing here looking out at New York City; we're all together," Rhimes recalls a moment after the ShondaLand shoot. "And I suddenly thought, *I built this. That's crazy. All these people are sitting here because I wrote stuff, because I imagined something, literally because I made something up in my head—the thing that I've been doing since I was 4 years old. That's why all these people are sitting here*. That was kind of like a really profound moment for me." □



Bené Viera (@beneviera) is a multimedia journalist, writer and activist. She reports on race, gender and pop culture. This is her first cover story for ESSENCE.

"What drew me to the character was her mess and her mystery." —Viola Davis





MURDER SHE WROTE

Opposite page: (From left) On Billy: a **DKNY** suit, **Banana Republic** shirt and **Axel Arigato** loafers. On Alfred: a **Calvin Klein Collection** suit, **A.P.C.** sweater, **Banana Republic** belt and socks and **Tom Ford** shoes. On Aja: a **DSquared2** dress, **Kimberly McDonald** ring and **Tamera Mellon** pumps.

This page: Viola wears a **Temperley London** blazer, **Zadig & Voltaire** tank, **Halston Heritage** pants, **Jennifer Fisher** earrings, **Chopard** necklace and **Laruicci** ring (on right hand) and her own ring (on left hand).

Viola: **Hair**, Giselle Modeste/Epiphany Artist Group. **Makeup**, Lucky Smyler/MAC Cosmetics/Epiphany Artist Group. **Manicure**, Sunshine/Lancôme. **Stylist**, James Knox. Billy and Alfred: **Hair**, Vernon Scott. **Grooming**, Tia Dantzler/tiadantzler.com. Aja: **Hair**, Lacy Redway/The Wall Group. **Makeup**, Ashunta Sheriff/Dior Beauty/kenbarboza.com. **Manicure**, Deborah Lippmann. **Stylist**, Zoey Washington.

Fashion and entertainment photographer **Nino Muñoz** (@ninomunoz) is part of the ESSENCE family, and the perfect person to join us on our ShondaLand adventure.

TABLET EXTRAS **See behind-the-scenes video of the epic ShondaLand cast shoot.**



Marissa Webb tweed vest and skirt. **Rachel Pally** crop top. **Reiss** shearling vest. **L.A.M.B.** heels. Hosiery, stylist's own ▷



Masters

CORSETS AND CIGARETTE PANTS, SWEATSUITS AND BLING—IT'S TIME TO STYLE IT ON PHOTOGRAPHY BY DENNIS LEUPOLD | FASHION EDITOR: JOIEE THORPE



Hemant & Nandita bejeweled sweater and pants. **Eileen Fisher** vest. **Sarah J Curtis** hat. **Cynthia Rybakoff** square rose gold ring. **Suz Somersall** facet ring. **Cynthia Vincent** shoes.



O'2nd coat. **Rebecca Taylor** fringe top. **Eileen Fisher** sheer top. **Jill Stuart** metallic pants. **Reiss** hat. **Cynthia Rybakoff** square rose gold ring. ▷



Rebecca Minkoff dress. **Beckley** bustier. **Bally** trousers and shoes. **Cynthia Rybakoff** square rose gold ring. **Suz Somersall** bold facet ring.



ICB embroidered capelet and glove. **Marissa Webb** wrap vest. **Gap** leggings. ☐

For details, see Where to Buy.

Hair, Tiffany Daugherty/Epiphany Artist Group. **Makeup**, Motoko. **Manicure**, Maya Apple. **Model**, Raven Lyn Corneil/ Women 360.

TABLET EXTRAS See two more cool layered looks.



We're Back Together

WHEN TOMIKO FRASER REACHED OUT TO US ABOUT A REUNION WITH HER 1990'S MOD



Again!

EL FRIENDS, OUR RESPONSE WAS A DEFINITIVE YES!



Tomiko and Epperson

BY TOMIKO FRASER HINES
STYLING BY EPPERSON
PHOTOGRAPHY BY MARC BAPTISTE

When I began my career as a model back in the early 1990's, one of my dream jobs was to appear in ESSENCE magazine. So imagine my utter joy when I had the opportunity, more than once, to model for this iconic publication. You couldn't tell me anything!

I've been modeling more than 20 years now and working with ESSENCE remains one of the highlights of my career. I was reminiscing about those times when I wondered what some of the other models from my heyday were up to.

I reached out to ESSENCE and my question evolved into this story.

Fast-forward to the day of this shoot: Familiar faces I hadn't seen in years came strolling into the studio. The reconnection was instant. There were lots of squeals, hugs and "Girl, you still look the same!" exchanged between the ladies. The excitement and joy in the room were palpable.

Once we started the shoot, with photographer Marc Baptiste screaming enthusiastically from behind his camera, we all snapped into action. Each click of the camera brought shouts of "Yes!" and "Work, ladies!" It was a great day all around. One I know that none of the models will soon forget. I know I won't.

None of this could have happened without the collaboration of Baptiste and designer extraordinaire Epperson, who dressed us all. I caught up with everyone afterward and ESSENCE captured the interviews on video (turn the page for highlights of the conversations and download ESSENCE's tablet edition for behind-the-scenes extras). Scheduling conflicts and personal circumstances didn't allow for all the models invited to be present. But, ladies, you were definitely with us in spirit. Thank you, ESSENCE, for making another one of this little Black girl's dreams come true. ▷

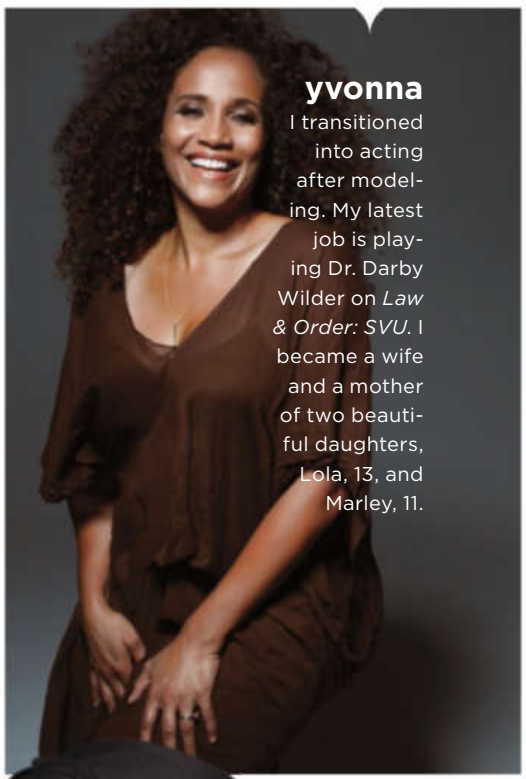


georgianna
My advice to Black models today would be never give up! Do not allow others or circumstances to define you or your future. Be bold and courageous. Always be grateful and thankful to people. Respect yourself and others.



angela
The advice I would share with Black models today is to not only keep their bodies fit but also remember to nurture themselves from the inside as well.

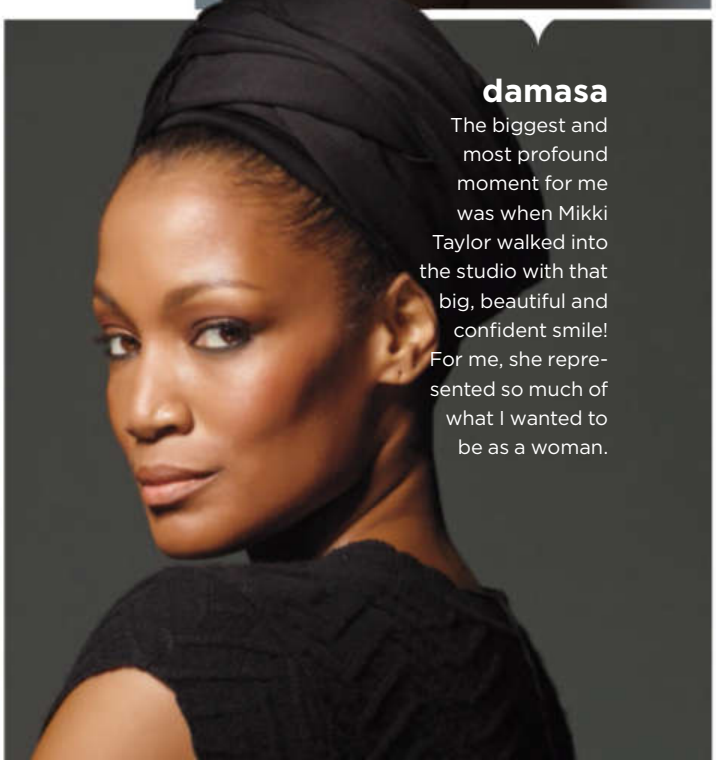
"I REMEMBER FLIPPING THROUGH THE PAGES OF ESSENCE LOOKING AT THESE BEAUTIFUL BROWN WOMEN WHO ACTUALLY LOOKED LIKE ME." —MARIE



yvonna
I transitioned into acting after modeling. My latest job is playing Dr. Darby Wilder on *Law & Order: SVU.* I became a wife and a mother of two beautiful daughters, Lola, 13, and Marley, 11.



stacey
What brings me the most joy is working with the company I founded, Walk This Way Workshops. This organization has a very clear mission: to empower young girls to value their uniqueness and find their individual voice. Through this work, I am constantly inspired by the beauty and strength within the young girls.

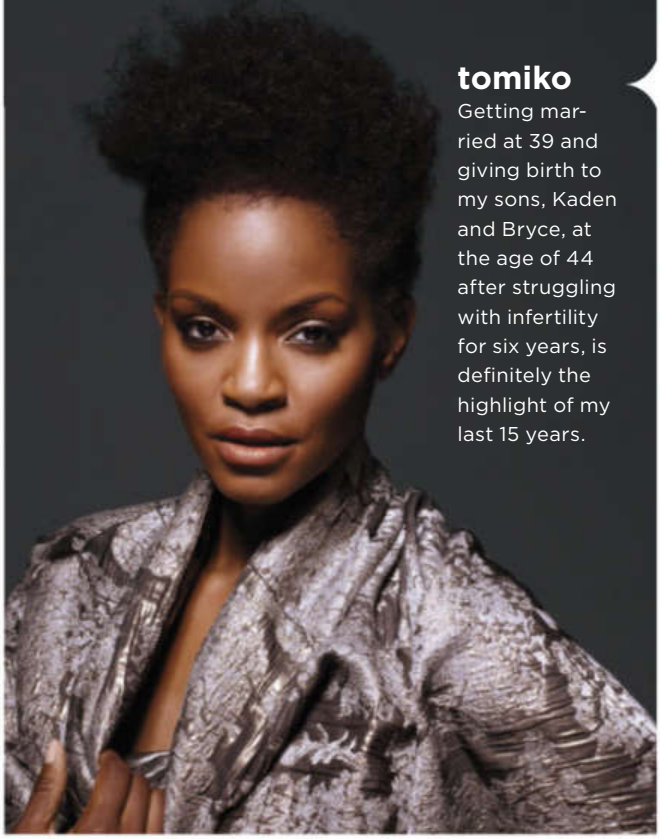


damasa
The biggest and most profound moment for me was when Mikki Taylor walked into the studio with that big, beautiful and confident smile! For me, she represented so much of what I wanted to be as a woman.



marie

My favorite memory of shooting for ESSENCE would absolutely have to be the first time I shot for the magazine. I grew up with it being a staple in our house. I can remember flipping through the pages looking at these beautiful brown women who actually looked like me and dreaming one day that I would be in this magazine too.



tomiko

Getting married at 39 and giving birth to my sons, Kaden and Bryce, at the age of 44 after struggling with infertility for six years, is definitely the highlight of my last 15 years.



kira

Over the past 15 years, I have raised three children and owned a boutique before becoming a mother agent to models worldwide. I use my past as a model to help others reach their goals.



adia

The highlight of my last 15 years is that I moved from Paris to New York City and met my wonderful husband. We have two beautiful daughters together. I also got my real estate license a few months ago. □



kahshanna

The ESSENCE cover in 1994 jump-started my modeling career of 20 years. I smile even now recalling the ESSENCE team. We'd giggle about our Black girl shapes, and they'd chat about what magazines we'd been sighted in with a sparkle of pride that made gearing up for shoots feel more like family reunions.



michelle

I have fond memories of countless beauty shoots with Mikki Taylor, and amazing artistry with the likes of Oscar James, Sam Fine and Jay Manuel. I remember the laughter the most, the times in the chair getting hair and makeup done by the masters.

Hair, Derick Monroe, Hadiya Barbel and Marcello Costa/kenbarboza.com. **Makeup**, Colby Smith/Exclusive Aritsts Management, Victor Amos and Frank Guyton/kenbarboza.com. All clothing by Epperson.

For more information on the designer, visit eppersonnyc.com.

TABLET EXTRAS **See behind-the-scenes fun with our model alums.**



Jones performing in her iconic *A One Man Show*.



Church and school were central to Jones's early life in Spanish Town, Jamaica.



Jones and designer Issey Miyake, who introduced her to Kabuki theater.



Jones with Annie Lennox (right) and a friend at a Fashion Rocks event.

Jones describes Marjorie (left), her mom, as a supreme being in her life.



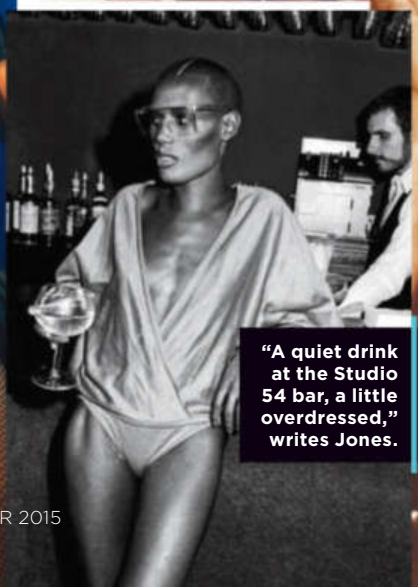
Jones, circa 1981, on a New York City rooftop.



Jones sharing a moment of bliss with Paulo, her son.



Jones in a Philip Treacy hat at a 50th anniversary concert for Island Records.



"A quiet drink at the Studio 54 bar, a little overdressed," writes Jones.



Jones acting natural at Studio 54 in her signature Norma Kamali unitard.

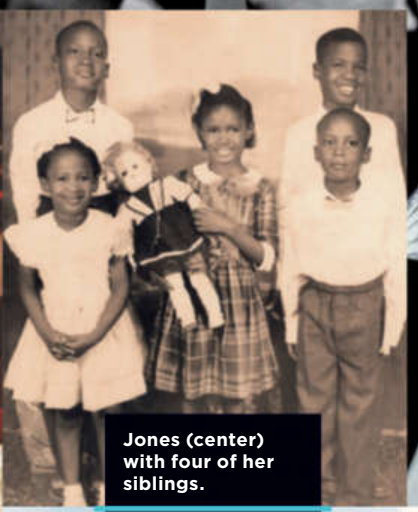
JONES WITH ACCORDION, IN SUNGLASSES, ON HANDS AND KNEES WITH MICROPHONE, LEANING ON BARREL: GREY PANTS AND SUIT JACKET: ADRIAN BOOT/WWW.URBANIMAGE.TV. (5) JONES DANCING WITH MAN AND CARMEN (2): ALL OTHERS: COURTESY JONES PRIVATE LIFE COLLECTION (7). BOOK STILL: TRACEY WOODS.

mazing Grace

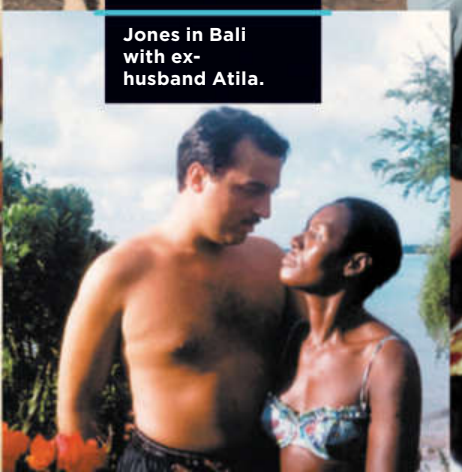
BY PATRIK HENRY BASS



Jones hits a London stage in 1984.



Jones (center) with four of her siblings.



Jones in Bali with ex-husband Atila.





Jones in Jean Paul Gaultier (above); with Iman (below).

It is impossible to forget the first time you saw Grace Jones. For many, that initial encounter with the Jamaican model was in this magazine in the early 1970's. Old-school music fans still can't get "Pull Up to the Bumper," her disco classic, out of their heads. Fashionistas know the style icon for rocking Issey Miyake and Philip Treacy before these designers were in vogue. And who doesn't remember Jones as Strangé in *Boomerang*?

Now 67, the Spanish Town native looks back at her colorful life in a no-holds-barred bio, **I'll Never Write My Memoirs** (Gallery, $26.99). In the book, coauthored with Paul Morley, Jones talks about it all: sex, drugs, rock, soul and everything in between. "I'm not intending to correct any versions of me that exist out there," she explains. "I don't want to spoil any image people might have of me.... I can be a pain, but most of all, I can be a pleasure."

Despite being raised in a strict, religious home (popular California-based pastor Bishop Noel Jones is her younger brother), Grace Beverly Jones defied and despised convention almost from birth.

A trek through her experiences—from her acid-dropping days in upstate New York to the sybaritic disco era to her distinctive roles in feature films (*Conan the Destroyer* and *A View to a Kill*)—reveals a truly adventurous spirit. Her legendary visual collaborations with artist Jean-Paul Goude (together they had a son, Paulo) have influenced performers from Annie Lennox to Lady Gaga to Rihanna. What remains solid about Jones is her determination to live an extraordinary life on her own terms.

And she shows no signs of slowing down.

"I didn't appear here out of the blue on some magic cloud," she writes. "I went through all this to get here." □



Grace Jones's sizzling new memoir is in stores now.

Justice Her Way

In her first few months as U.S. Attorney General, **Loretta Lynch** has developed a clear view of what she wants to achieve for this country. **Melissa Harris-Perry** sat down with the AG for an exclusive ESSENCE interview in which she discusses her childhood, being a Delta woman and the legacy she hopes to leave behind

PHOTOGRAPHY BY ELI MEIR KAPLAN



The Attorney General was photographed exclusively for ESSENCE, August 12, 2015, at the Department of Justice Library in Washington, D.C.

HAIR: JOHNNY WRIGHT. MAKEUP: ZIANNI COATS/KENBARBOZA.COM.

Loretta Lynch was sworn in as the 83rd Attorney General of the United States on April 27, 2015, after a delay of nearly six months. Her confirmation was caught up in the enduring partisan battle between President Obama's White House and the Republican-controlled Congress. Throughout the ordeal, Lynch remained characteristically cool. The daughter of a Baptist minister and a school librarian in North Carolina, Lynch is both grounded and accomplished. She graduated from Harvard College and Law School, and was a chartering member of Harvard's chapter of Delta Sigma Theta. Lynch is thoughtful, smart and warm, but she is also tough and uncompromising when faced with injustice.

It would be easy to underestimate the diminutive Lynch. Dwarfed by the soaring stacks of law books and even by her own staffers, the Attorney General wasn't even immediately visible to me when she first entered the main library at the Department of Justice (DOJ), where I interviewed her. Her manner is unassuming and she is concerned with putting everyone else in the room at ease. Because she is a small woman with all the charm and grace of her Black Southern Baptist upbringing, it might be easy to perceive Loretta Lynch as a pushover. To do so would be a mistake.

From her globally stunning announcement of indictments against previously untouchable top officials in soccer's international governing body, FIFA, to her continued determination to heal the rift between law enforcement and communities of color, it is clear Loretta Lynch is a lawyer of considerable courage, intellect and uncompromising ethics in the face of institutional injustice.

MELISSA HARRIS-PERRY: You are the first African-American woman to serve as Attorney General. From the moment you were nominated, there was consensus that you were eminently qualified. So why do you think your confirmation process took nearly six months?
AG LORETTA LYNCH: When you come to Washington and get involved in the political process, you learn that it's not about you in a personal sense. It's usually about a different issue or a political agenda, so you have to divorce your own personal feelings from that. I tried to do that throughout the process.

Compare it to the time it took to bring other important issues to fruition. It took me six months to get confirmed. How many years did it take us to get a Voting Rights Act? How many years did it take us to get the Civil Rights Act of 1964? How many years did it take us to get the *Brown* v. *Board of Education* decision?

M.H.P.: But I think Black women tend to diminish our own pain by saying, "Well, it's not as bad as what my aunties or my mother or my grandmother had to struggle through." I wonder if it keeps us from being able to say, "That was wrong. They should not have treated me that way." Who supported you through this difficult process?
LYNCH: That's an important point because I did have a lot of support. I had friends. I had family. People I really did not know wrote notes and called my office and left messages of support. It was really gratifying to me and very helpful to know that people I had never met were supporting me throughout this process.

The confirmation process was in about month four when my dad said to me, "Regardless of what happens with the vote, whether you are ever confirmed or not, you've already won." He said, "Think about it. Think how far you've come. Think what the world had seen. Think what you've been able to say and the issues you've been able to highlight. That's a tremendous opportunity that a lot of people do not ever get." It was one of those days when I needed to hear that.

M.H.P.: One group that showed substantial public support was Delta Sigma Theta. You were one of the chartering members of the Delta chapter at Harvard. Why was that important to you as a young woman?
LYNCH: I was always drawn to public service. When I looked at women in my own community, women who were doing positive things, a number of them were Deltas.

When I was at Delta's 2015 National Convention, I was tremendously honored to get the Patricia Roberts Harris Award because she was someone who always had been held out to me as a role model. When I got to Harvard, I felt that it would be great to have an organization like that.

We were very fortunate to have a soror who was in Harvard's administration at the time. We talked with her and



Being sworn in with VP Biden, her father and her husband

FROM LEFT: AP PHOTO/ANDREW HARNIK; AP PHOTO/J. SCOTT APPLEWHITE; PETE MAROVICH/GETTY IMAGES; JACK THOMPSON (2); TED RICHARDSON/FOR THE WASHINGTON POST VIA GETTY IMAGES.

all of us really thought how great it would be to combine academic achievement and excellence with public service. We believed if we felt this way there were other women who would feel that way.

That was 35 years ago, which still stuns me. I try to go back for the chapter anniversaries to watch the young women from all the different schools in Cambridge come together and focus on mentoring, on health fairs, on reading fairs, on literacy. It has been really tremendous. We built something.

M.H.P.: How did growing up in North Carolina help define who you are as a woman and as a lawyer?
LYNCH: When I think about North Carolina, there are so many things that come to mind. My family is one of the most important—the stories that my parents have told me about my family and their struggles.

It was really moving for me to watch my mother continue to push for her education even after she had a family. My mom went back to school to finish her coursework for her master's degree in library science when I was in elementary school. She left us with my dad one summer.

When she finished she was a librarian. Once, when she was going to work at the junior high school, she was talking to a very pleasant White woman on the bus. The woman said to my mother, "You're going off to the junior high school, and what do you do there?" My mother says, "I work in the library." The woman says, "That's wonderful. I'm sure it must be so much easier cleaning the library than cleaning the rest of the school."

M.H.P.: That reminds me of a story you tell of walking into court as a prosecutor and being assumed to be the court reporter.
LYNCH: Yes, which was something that happened to a lot of young women attorneys when I was just starting out.

M.H.P.: But is it worth saying that being a janitor and a court reporter are both valuable and dignified jobs?
LYNCH: Absolutely! But it is about the assumptions people make about you. People will look at you and they think they know your story. That's what I think happens to women a lot. I think it happens to minorities all the time. That's why I think it's so important for us to tell our own stories.

M.H.P.: President Obama has publicly stated that he has been frustrated by being unable to make meaningful change on the issue of guns and gun violence. Is the DOJ capable of moving the needle on this?
LYNCH: I think a number of people in the administration, and frankly throughout the country, feel a great sense of frustration because the loss of life is so tragic. It has left a hole in not only the families of the people who have died as a result of gun violence but also that community.

It is really a question for all of us. It is a question for the country. Everyone who has an opinion on it needs to weigh in and get involved in this issue. We have to decide what is important to us as a country. All of our constitutional rights are important and fundamental. We have to decide how we carry out that particular right and what responsibilities come along with it. This is a question for all of us to decide.

M.H.P.: Addressing human trafficking is a priority of yours. What do ESSENCE readers need to know about human trafficking?
LYNCH: Human trafficking can be such an invisible crime, yet it pulls in so many vulnerable women and children through sexual slavery and forced labor. The women you may see on a daily basis in a market may, behind closed doors, be being forced into sexual slavery.

We have situations where young girls of color are disaffected and family bonds are broken. This makes them easy prey. The next thing these children know they are being moved across state lines and from city to city and they can't get out of this life.

M.H.P.: What is the legacy that you want to leave as Attorney General?
LYNCH: I want to leave a legacy of inclusion. I want this to be a department people can turn to when they feel like there's no one listening to them or when there's something threatening them.

I want to protect the most vulnerable members of our society and make sure everyone has a voice and understands that the Department of Justice's main goal is the protection of the American people. ☐



Lynch testifies at her confirmation hearing on Capitol Hill.


In the Oval Office with President Obama


Flanked by Delta Sigma Theta sorors



Speaking at the 2015 Delta convention


Proud parents Lorine and Lorenzo Lynch at their home

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SEX & LOVE

THE PURSUIT OF PEACE

WE CHALLENGED THREE COUPLES TO ARGUE LESS AND COMMUNICATE MORE USING SIMPLE, MARRIAGE-TESTED METHODS. HERE'S WHAT WE LEARNED

Is quarreling in your relationship inevitable? Marriage blogger and best-selling author Fawn Weaver says it doesn't have to be. In her new book, *The Argument-Free Marriage: 28 Days to Creating the Marriage You've Always Wanted With the Spouse You Already Have* (Thomas Nelson), Weaver offers a 28-day road map to marital bliss. We asked three couples at pivotal stages in their relationships—including our own Charli Penn—to test-drive some of Weaver's best advice and give us a report. See how they did!



THE SOON-TO-BE-WEDS

FELICIA LUEVANO AND RANDON WILLIAMS
AGES: 29 and 30
LOCATION: Greensboro, NC
OCCUPATIONS: Clinical Therapist and Project Manager
TOGETHER: 6 years **ENGAGED:** 10 months

What they argue about most: "Wedding planning!" says the bride-to-be. "We argue about a date because we can't agree on the ceremony: I would like an intimate beach wedding; he wants a large traditional church wedding in his hometown. He is very vocal about his wants. I'm the bride, and he should be more open to mine."
Their goal: To gain more trust and respect for each other's opinions.
Their strengths: "We are very goal-oriented together," says Randon.

THE CHALLENGE

- **Uncover your true feelings.** The next time you disagree, identify the emotion that set you off (abandonment, for example), not the event or fuss that resulted (your staying out later at night, for example). Remain vulnerable with your partner and explain how you feel.
- **Throw out your plan B!** No matter what, know and believe that divorce and infidelity are not options for you. Private bank accounts, what-if thoughts and plans to support yourself in case of divorce must go. Focus solely on your plan A: together, always.

THE HARD PART: "Allowing myself to be vulnerable during an argument is something that will take work," says Randon. "I think I associate vulnerability with weakness, but it's essential to a successful marriage and something I am willing to work on."

THE RESULTS

She says: "I had an 'aha!' moment. As an educated woman, I've always had a plan A, B and C. This allowed me to focus on plan A with Randon and to solely commit to the love of my life."
He says: "Our discussions are less intense now, and I can tell Felicia is working to understand my point of view."

WEAVER'S NOTES: Being vulnerable with your spouse requires complete trust. You have to believe he or she has your best interest at heart at all times.



THE MARRIAGE INTERMEDIATES

CHARLI PENN-WATKINS AND GIBRAN WATKINS
AGES: 32 and 35
LOCATION: Bloomfield, NJ
OCCUPATIONS: ESSENCE.com Relationships Editor and Retail Supervisor
TOGETHER: 12 years **MARRIED:** 5 years

What they argue about most: "What we should spend our money on, when to have kids and who's responsible for keeping the house in order when we're both exhausted and busy," he says.
Their goals: "We're best friends and I want to make her happy. She's not happy when we argue over the same things," says Gibran. "Less arguing means more time for us."
Their strengths: "We enjoy each other," says Charli. "We've never stopped having fun and appreciating each other."

THE CHALLENGE

- **Dream a new dream!** Throw out others' expectations of what marriage should be (in-laws included) and go with what feels right to you.
- **Come up with a "daily routine"** that you do together every day, no matter what.

THE HARD PART: "Dreaming a new dream has been challenging," Charli says. "We've been together for so long that we're both committed to the 'plans' we made when we first fell in love, so it feels as if we're cheating ourselves to rethink them, even when we obviously need to."

THE RESULTS

She says: "We chose an unexpected daily ritual, which is to shower together every night [my husband's idea!]. It has become an excellent place for us to be more vulnerable with each other and talk about things we normally can't get past before bed. It's tough to argue when you're naked!"
He says: "Repeating the same arguments about money wasn't solving our problems. Instead we have to create a new definition of what works for us and focus on how to get there, then do it, not just keep talking about it."

WEAVER'S NOTES: Gibran's answers echo how most husbands feel. They just want their wives to be happy but don't know how to ensure that. Your success will continue if you create the time and space for it. Make your marriage a "still point in a turning world." Don't allow the world to encroach on the love and life you are building together. ▷

FROM TOP: C BEAUTIFULLY; COURTESY OF SUBJECTS.

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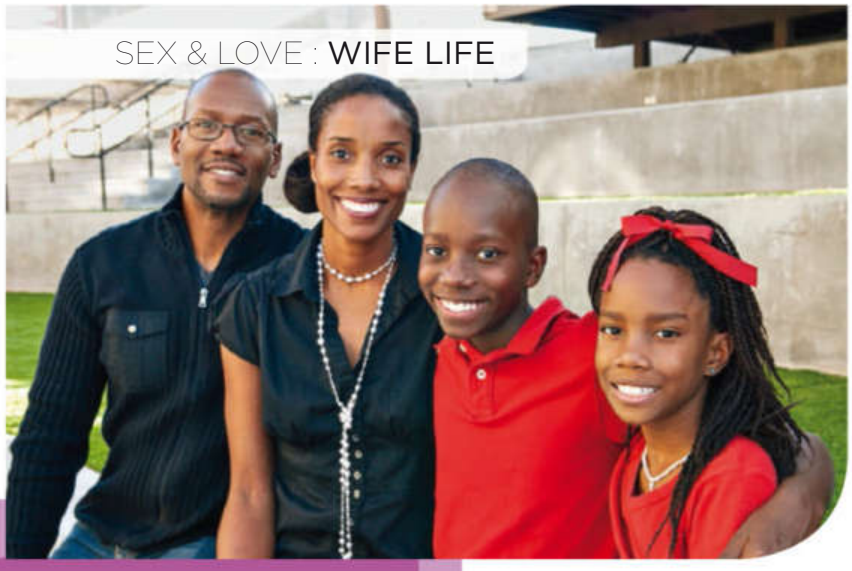




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THE MARRIAGE PROS

ANNETT AND BYRON DAVIS
AGES: 42 and 45
LOCATION: Valencia, CA
OCCUPATIONS: Retired Professional Athlete and Career Coach
KIDS: Two children, ages 14 and 10
TOGETHER: 24 years **MARRIED:** 18 years

What they argue about most: "The times we have tension are tied to our moods, hunger levels or tiredness," Annett admits. "These things can be triggers."
Their goals: Recognize triggers and argue less about household chores.
Their strengths: "We laugh a lot and extend grace toward each other," Byron says. "We complement each other extremely well," adds Annett.

THE CHALLENGE

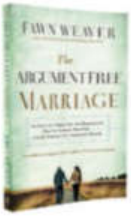
- **Delay your reaction.** Avoid responding to minor annoyances right away, and don't have tough conversations when you're tired.
- **Look in the mirror.** Shift the focus from your spouse's behavior to what your role could be in the disagreement and how you may have hurt your partner's feelings or caused the miscommunication.

THE HARD PART: "My timing can sometimes be off, and my joking or pressing can upset Annett," Byron says. "If either of us is tired or stressed or does not feel 'heard,' that increases the tension, too."

THE RESULTS

She says: "I focused on not sweating the small stuff. Instead of getting uptight because something he said rubbed me wrong, I let it go. We have a deal in our house where I cook delicious, healthy meals and he washes the dishes. Usually the sight of unwashed dishes makes me irritated, but I practiced seeing things from his vantage point and I actually had compassion for him. He works a long, hard day, and he likes to be present at our kids' track practice almost every night, which leaves him about one hour of free time in the evenings. That's not a lot of time. I realize that I need to cut him some slack. I started being grateful for him wanting to be an active dad and doing an awesome job of providing instead of being upset about dishes. They are just dishes!"
He says: "Not letting molehills become mountains has allowed us to never let the sun go down on our anger without understanding the core issues and how each person feels."

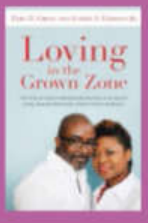
WEAVER'S NOTES: The goal isn't perfection, it's progress. If couples are willing to see their marriage and spouse from a different vantage point, they can move toward their desired relationship.



Yes, it's possible to eliminate quarrels. Learn more in *The Argument-Free Marriage: 28 Days to Creating the Marriage You've Always Wanted With the Spouse You Already Have*.

YOUR RELATIONSHIP PROTECTION PLAN

Husband and wife team **Zara D. Green** and **Alfred A. Edmond, Jr.**, coauthors of



Loving in the Grown Zone (Balboa Press), offer no-nonsense tips for avoiding drama with your significant other

1. DON'T LABEL YOUR PARTNER THE "PROBLEM"

"Never allow the problem to become more important than the person. In a healthy relationship, disagreement should never equal division," Edmond insists. "Your partner is your ally against the problem, not your enemy."

2. STRENGTHEN YOUR FOUNDATION

"If the foundation, the relationship, is solid, the house—your marriage—can withstand disagreements," says Green. "If the foundation is faulty, then the marriage is in danger, no matter how much or how little you disagree."

3. RECOGNIZE THAT ARGUMENTS ARE NEVER ABOUT DISAGREEMENTS

When disagreements lead to arguing, the arguments are never actually about the disagreement. To prevent lasting damage, you need to clear space and time for the opportunity to discuss your feelings safely and openly—not to agree with each other, but to truly hear and be heard.

—Charli Penn



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THE DAVIS FAMILY, ALFRED JORDAN. BOOK STILLS, COURTESY OF SUBJECTS.

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WHEN LOVE TURNS VIOLENT

The statistics of intimate partner violence for women of color are alarming. Help end this epidemic through education

BY CLAUDIA M. CARUANA

ILLUSTRATION BY PETER STRAIN

HEALTHY & HAPPY

I was 18 and in love. And my partner and the father of my two children started beating me," says fortysomething Gina Brown. The beatings went on for several years. "Our son watched him beat me. It wasn't until he threw back to hit me when I had our 16-month-old daughter in my arms that I decided to leave," she says. "I had never been strong enough to leave before, but something changed that day. I refused to allow him to beat me in front of our daughter. I went back home to my family."

Like many other women, Brown could not talk about what happened. "It took years for me to open up about the abuse. I was so ashamed and angry," she says. "I eventually got an awesome support system and relied on it to find my way." Today Brown is a social worker in Metairie, Louisiana.

Intimate partner violence (IPV)—including beating, shoving, humiliating and stalking—has been woven throughout human history. Wife beating was considered almost a husband's right for generations. The American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, founded in 1866, predated the first American state to officially ban the practice of wife beating.

Domestic violence can enter every income bracket and class, as former Baltimore Ravens running back Ray Rice illustrates. He was caught on film punching and knocking out his then fiancée, Janay, who later became his wife. "Black women appear to face a far greater risk of domestic violence than White women," shares Jessica C. McElfresh, a San Diego criminal defense attorney who specializes in domestic violence cases.

The statistics are chilling. According to the Institute on Domestic Violence in the African American Community, Black women experience IPV at rates 35 percent higher than White women. Black females are murdered by males almost three times more than Whites, reveals the Violence Policy Center (VPC). A 2014 report released by the center found that among Black female victims who knew their offenders, 56 percent were wives, ex-wives or girlfriends.

In terms of risk factors, childhood abuse, poverty and poor self-esteem heighten the chance of someone becoming a victim or perpetrator of IPV. When abuse does occur, Black women may be more vocal about it.

"Women of color tend to report more instances of IPV than do their White counterparts," says Darryl W. Cunningham, adjunct professor at William & Mary Law School and managing attorney for its Domestic Violence Clinic.

More cohabiting couples than married couples report incidents of domestic violence. "Researchers theorize that the loose bonds of cohabiting, lack of marital norms and lesser commitment can cause jealousy and insecurity, increasing the risk of IPV," Cunningham says.

Armed and Dangerous

A gun can turn an incident of domestic violence into a homicide. A VPC report found that female intimate partners are more likely to be murdered with a firearm than all other means combined.

THE HIV CONNECTION

There is another issue that may come into play with IPV: HIV.

"The rate of IPV among women with HIV is substantially higher than the national average," states Tina Hoff, a senior vice-president for the Kaiser Family Foundation. "Conversely, women with a history of IPV are more likely to be at risk for HIV. These ladies are less likely to protect themselves from HIV or address HIV-related illnesses if infected."

Half of the more than 300,000 women living with HIV in the United States are currently experiencing violence at home or have been abused in the past. "In some cases, disclosure of an HIV status may actually lead to abuse," Hoff adds.

This problem has not gone unnoticed. In 2012 President Barack Obama formed an interagency federal task force to examine the link between violence against women and HIV/AIDS. Gina Brown discovered she was living with HIV months after she left her abusive partner. She now counsels women who have been victims of IPV and serves on the Presidential Advisory Council on HIV/AIDS.

BREAKING FREE

Knowledge is power for women in abusive relationships. "A victim who understands how she can escape and how to utilize the legal system and community resources is far more likely to leave than one who sees no escape," Cunningham says. "Any effort that shares information can save lives."

Hotlines where women can find help to leave a dangerous situation have gained more visibility. The National Domestic Violence Hotline reported 22 percent of callers identified themselves as Black or African-American.

"Abusers often isolate the victim and try to destroy personal relationships to make them feel as though there is nowhere to turn," Cunningham says. "More women will come forward if they have the support of family and friends, and resources."

HOW YOU CAN HELP

Family and friends who notice behaviors indicative of abuse (unexplained injuries, wearing clothing not seasonally appropriate in order to hide injuries and so on) can be supportive by remaining nonjudgmental and helping the woman find resources to safely leave. You can also assist by donating an old cell phone and charger to any Verizon store. The company will refurbish the phone and donate it to an organization helping domestic violence victims.

SUPPORT FOR SURVIVORS

"For women planning to leave an abusive partner, make sure you have important papers, your children's birth certificate, social security cards, extra medications and a safe place to go," shares social worker and abuse survivor Gina Brown. "Women are most vulnerable when leaving an abusive relationship." If you are experiencing IPV, get help immediately. Contact **The National Domestic Violence Hotline (800-799-7233 or thehotline.org)**, where trained advocates are available 24/7. Calls are confidential.



Claudia M. Caruana is a New York City–based medical and science writer who has written about sleep, fibroids and massage for ESSENCE.

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Consider allergies when candy shopping.

Be the Queen of Halloween

HAVE A GHOSTLY GOOD TIME WITH YOUR FAMILY FOR LESS **BY TARA PRINGLE JEFFERSON**

Every year Brooklyn mom Aisha Greene schemes for the perfect family costumes for Halloween. Her brood has previously taken inspiration from movies and video games. In 2009 the Greenes went as characters from *The Wizard of Oz*. Last year her husband and two daughters went as the cast of *Annie*. "If I had boys, we would absolutely be the cast of *Empire* this year," Greene says.

She keeps her family's plans under wraps until the big night, so she's mum on what they will do this year. The activity always gives them something to look forward to. "Before we got married, my husband, Hayden, and I dressed as a couple for Halloween, so it was natural for us to continue the tradition with our children," Greene says. "As people age, they can become so uptight. We still laugh at ourselves. It's a fun way for us to bond." Themed costumes are one way to turn Halloween into a holiday that's enjoyable for the whole family. Here are other tips for a safe, good time:

Dress for less.

The biggest decision on costumes? Whether to go homemade or store-bought. If you're up for a challenge, browse Pinterest for quick, easy ideas. There will probably be a million boys dressed as Iron Man this year. Handcrafted outfits can win your child points for originality. If crafts are not your strong suit, purchased items can still be magical. To save money, don't overlook used duds that were most likely worn once or twice. Greene recommends searching freecycle.org to find like-new ensembles for the family. Thrift stores in the fall can also be gold mines. I found a brand-new pirate costume with tags for my son for $5.

Master sweet treats.

As a food allergy mom, I'm thankful to neighbors who opt for nut-free candy for trick-or-treaters. The number of children with allergies is rising. According to the Food Allergy Research & Education organization, nearly 6 million children are living with at least one food allergy. The organization has spearheaded the Teal Pumpkin Project, which urges families to consider passing out nonfood items for Halloween such as stickers, glow bracelets or crayons. If you want to stay traditional, think about some of the top food allergens—tree nuts, soy, dairy, wheat, eggs and peanuts—when making your candy selections. Of course, be sure to sift through your kids' goody bags before letting them indulge.

Turn up the adventure.

Scurrying from door to door seeking candy is customary, but in 2015 there are more opportunities to venture outside of your neighborhood. If you have an amusement park within driving distance, many turn their grounds into Halloween-themed attractions. You can also get tickets early for your local Boo at the Zoo night, where your little ones can get candy while visiting some of their favorite animals. To bring service to the holiday, you can take your children trick-or-treating at an assisted living home, where the residents will fawn over your kids while giving them tidbits.

Host an "alternative" Halloween.

Don't want to participate in the conventional activities? Stay in and have a family fun night with movies, snacks and games. Go old-school with *Jumanji* or be current with a flick like *Home*. To satisfy their sweet tooth, you can have your children do an indoor scavenger hunt for candy (similar to an Easter egg hunt) and watch them burn a little energy in the process.

Tara Pringle Jefferson is the founder of theyoungmommylife.com, an online support community for young mothers. She is the author of *The Good Life: Pep Talks for Stressed Solopreneurs* (Amazon).

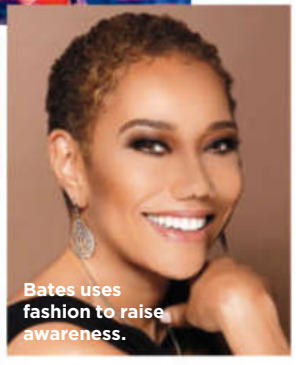
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Breast cancer survivors work the runway each year.



Bates uses fashion to raise awareness.

Strut. Fight Cancer. Repeat.

BLACK WOMEN ACROSS THE COUNTRY ARE BATTLING THE DISEASE WITH STYLE

BY MEGAN SIMS

Chicago fashion designer Barbara Ann Bates's days were filled with dressing chic clients including Oprah Winfrey when she felt a lump in her breast in 2009. She didn't think it was a big deal until she mentioned it to her pal Linda Hall. Since she had recently lost a friend to breast cancer, Hall encouraged Bates to have the lump examined. "Yes, I think you have breast cancer," she was told at a hospital days later. A biopsy confirmed the fashion lover had stage III hormone receptor (HR)-positive breast cancer.

Bates was no stranger to trying times. After an unexpected pregnancy in her teens, she persevered and graduated high school a year early with her young son in the audience. She went on to become a self-taught fashion entrepreneur and started The Barbara Bates Foundation, which provided prom dresses and suits for students fighting difficult circumstances. But everything came to a halt with her diagnosis.

"It was a numbing experience," Bates says. "You can't move forward with any other thoughts except, *What's going to happen to me?*"

> *"When they hit the runway, everyone's excited to see the face of breast cancer."*
>
> —BARBARA BATES

The doctor at the hospital where Bates was diagnosed recommended a double mastectomy, which would remove both breasts. Her preacher encouraged her to seek a second opinion. She did and was given other treatment options. She decided on a lumpectomy, which removed the tumor from her left breast, followed by chemotherapy and radiation. After a year and a half of treatment, she was cancer-free. "I was renewed," Bates says. "I had new cells, new hair, new skin and a new way of thinking."

Bates's new lease on life inspired her to expand the focus of her foundation to advocate and educate other women on breast cancer. "I didn't have the right information about breast cancer, so I was devastated when I got it," she says. "I wasn't getting mammograms and had the wrong information about who was at risk."

Black women are 40 percent more likely to die from breast cancer than White women, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Early diagnosis is key to our survival. Bates decided to bring awareness by hosting the Knocking Out Breast Cancer fashion show in 2012, which featured 50 models—all breast cancer survivors. "There is an undeniable sisterhood for those who have gone through and are going through this journey," shares Zara Johnson, a six-year breast cancer survivor and model for the Chicago event. "Some models are nervous before they walk the runway. I remind them we're beating cancer so that audience is in no way scary."

Surviving breast cancer with style is a growing effort for Black women. In Baltimore, wig lover Crystal Hughes collects and donates wigs to hospitals for women undergoing treatment through her organization, Wig Capitol Foundation. "Many women we serve never thought they would wear a wig," Hughes says. "We educate them and try to give them confidence as they weather this storm."

The Barbara Bates Foundation is now preparing for its fourth annual fashion show and has generated close to $500,000 to focus on breast cancer awareness and education in Chicago's urban neighborhoods. "When there are 50 women getting their hair and makeup done, it's a heavenly feeling," Bates says. "When they hit the runway, everyone's excited to see what the face of breast cancer is—sometimes it's with a bald head. The reality is that we can fight together to find a cure."

FROM LEFT: BUZZ McBRIDE (2); ERNEST COLLINS.

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GfK, 2014



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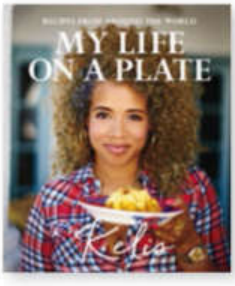


Kelis finds the joy in food.

DINNER WITH KELIS

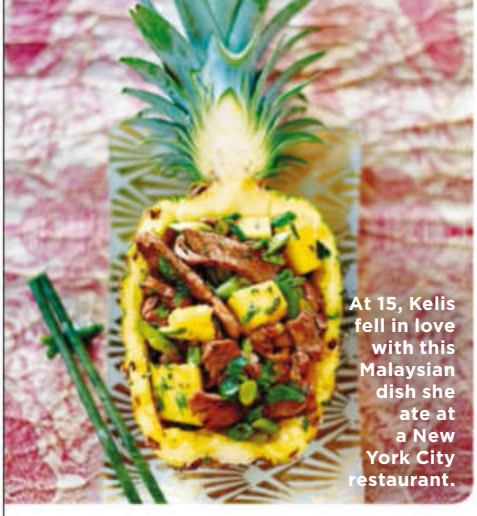
As her new cookbook hits shelves, the colorful singer and trained chef invites us into her kitchen **BY CHARREAH K. JACKSON**

Tell me what music you listen to, what you eat, show me what you're wearing and I can tell you who you are," says singer and chef Kelis, 36. At 17 the New York City native, who was signed to Virgin Records, began her almost 20-year journey of traveling the world performing and experiencing local foods and cultures. "I was in Malaysia once for a few weeks," she recalls of finding one of her favorite meals. "Every morning I would go to this man's cart and have the best roti made with condensed milk and curry. He didn't speak English or have teeth. I would just watch him."



Her dad is a musician and her mother is a chef, so observing and learning has been Kelis's way of life. A few years ago she took her love for cooking to new heights and enrolled at Le Cordon Bleu culinary school. Since graduating she's launched Bounty & Full (her line of sauces), manned a food truck and hosted her own Cooking Channel special, *Saucy & Sweet*.

Most days the busy star still cooks dinner alongside her new husband and her son, Knight. "Making sure the pantry is stocked" is most important, she says from her L.A. home. "If I'm coming from meetings all day, I can grab something from the butcher and go home. I then chop vegetables I already have and throw everything in a skillet with some sauce and we're good to go." Kelis shares her favorite global recipes in *My Life on a Plate* (Kyle). While embracing her domestic side, she remains eclectic. For Knight's sixth birthday, she gave him a tortoise that can grow to 150 pounds. He named the pet Macaroni, after his favorite dish. The apple doesn't fall far from the tree.



At 15, Kelis fell in love with this Malaysian dish she ate at a New York City restaurant.

PINEAPPLE BEEF

Makes 4 to 6 servings.
Prep time: 15 minutes
Cooking time: 15 to 20 minutes

- 3 rib-eye steaks, frozen, and cut into ¼-inch-thick slices
- 2½ teaspoons kosher salt
- 3 teaspoons black pepper
- 2 tablespoons unsalted butter or ghee
- 1 tablespoon chile oil
- ½ large yellow onion, coarsely chopped
- 1 pineapple, peeled, cored and cut into 1-inch-thick chunks
- 1 green bell pepper, cored, seeded and coarsely chopped
- 1 tablespoon finely grated fresh ginger
- 3 garlic cloves, minced
- 1½ teaspoons ground cumin
- 1 teaspoon curry powder
- ½ cup pineapple juice
- 3 tablespoons soy sauce
- 2 tablespoons turbinado sugar
- 2 cups sugar snap peas or snow peas, strings removed
- 4 spring onions or scallions, thinly sliced on the bias (white and green parts)
- ¼ cup chopped fresh cilantro

Season the steaks with 2 teaspoons salt and 1 teaspoon pepper, then set aside. Melt the butter with the chile oil in a large sauté pan over medium-high heat. Add the onion and the remaining salt and pepper, then sauté, stirring often, until it begins to soften, about 5 minutes. Toss in the pineapple, bell pepper, ginger, garlic, cumin and curry powder, and cook for about 5 minutes, until the bell peppers soften. Stir in the pineapple juice, soy sauce and sugar. Bring to a simmer and cook for about 2 minutes to thicken the sauce. Increase the heat to high, add the steak and cook for about 1 minute. Stir in the peas and scallions, and cook for about 2 minutes to ensure they are warmed through and softened. Turn off the heat and stir in the cilantro. Serve with white or brown rice.

DAVID LOFTUS (3)



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COVERS

***GREY'S ANATOMY* CAST**

On Jason George: **Ralph Lauren Black Label** tuxedo, $2,295, Neiman Marcus, Short Hills, NJ, 973-912-0080. **American Apparel** tee, $18, americanapparel.com. **Miansai** cuff, $200, miansai.com. **Movado** watch, $795, movado.com.

On James Pickens, Jr.: **Ralph Lauren Black Label** tuxedo, $2,295, Neiman Marcus, Short Hills, NJ, 973-912-0080. **Eton** shirt, $265, Bloomingdale's, NYC, 212-705-2000.

On Kelly McCreary: **James Knox** dress*, jamesknox.me. **Chopard** ring*, chopard.com. **Malone Souliers** sandals, $845, saks.com. Earrings, stylist's own.

On Jerrika Hinton: **Vionnet** jacket, $2,850, and shorts, $840, vionnet.com for stores. **Jennifer Fisher** choker, $300, net-a-porter.com. **Chopard** ring*, chopard.com. **Via Spiga** heels, $225, viaspiga.com. Top, stylist's own.

***HOW TO GET AWAY WITH MURDER* CAST**

On Billy Brown: **DKNY** suit, $695, select DKNY stores. **Banana Republic** shirt, $80, bananarepublic.gap.com. **Graff** watch*, NYC, 212-355-9292.

On Alfred Enoch: **Calvin Klein Collection** suit, $1,725, calvinklein.com/collection. **A.P.C.** sweater, $235, NYC, 212-966-0049. **Banana Republic** belt, $59, bananarepublic.gap.com. **Graff** watch*, NYC, 212-355-9292.

On Aja Naomi King: **DSquared2** dress*, NYC, 212-966-3487. **Madyha Farooqui** earrings*, madyhafarooqui.com. **Kimberly McDonald** ring*, Los Angeles, 310-854-0890.

VIOLA DAVIS

Halston Heritage gown, $595, Neiman Marcus, Short Hills, NJ, 877-777-5321. **Jennifer Fisher** cuffs, $285 and $650, and ring, $170, NYC, 888-255-0640. **Laruicci** ring, $75, and cuff, $100, laruicci.com.

SHONDA RHIMES

Carolina Herrera gown, $4,290, saks.com. **Erickson Beamon** necklace, $1,675, lovemyswag.com. **Laruicci** bracelet, $170, laruicci.com.

KERRY WASHINGTON

Marc Jacobs dress*, marcjacobs.com. Ring, subject's own.

CHANDRA WILSON

JS Collections dress, $400, Lord & Taylor. **Kimberly McDonald** earrings*, Neiman Marcus. **Yael Sonia** ring (right hand)*, yaelsonia.com. **Madyha Farooqui** ring*, madyhafarooqui.com.

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BLACK GIRL MAGIC

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THE HOUSE THAT SHONDA BUILT

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On Jason George: **Ralph Lauren Black Label** tuxedo, $2,295, Neiman Marcus, Short Hills, NJ, 973-912-0080. ▷

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On James Pickens, Jr.: **Ralph Lauren Black Label** tuxedo, $2,295, Neiman Marcus, Short Hills, NJ, 973-912-0080. **Eton** shirt, $265, Bloomingdale's, NYC, 212-705-2000. **Movado** watch, $1,995, movado.com. Ring, subject's own.
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On Alfred Enoch: **Calvin Klein Collection** suit, $1,725, calvinklein.com/collection. **A.P.C.** sweater, $235, NYC, 212-966-0049. **Banana Republic** belt, $59, and socks, $13, bananarepublic.gap.com. **Graff** watch*, NYC, 212-355-9292. **Tom Ford** shoes, $1,990, tomford.com.
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Libra

September 23 to October 22

OVERVIEW You're charming, an engaging conversationalist and heads turn when you enter a room. You work hard to achieve the American dream with all the trappings of success. The sign of the scales, you constantly seek perfect balance, although others may fault you for always considering both sides. A relationship with you needs to be slow-going because you might act impulsively only to retreat shortly after. You're compatible with Leo, Gemini, Aquarius and Sagittarius. If you and Aries, your opposite, can function outside the boudoir, there's hope. **THE YEAR AHEAD** Have no misgivings about a major shift, such as making a career change, improving health habits or meeting that all-important someone. **THIS MONTH LOVE:** You can avoid or embrace the passionate and intriguing hottie. Couples, date nights help. **WORK:** On-the-job woes need an intervention. **MONEY:** Emotional spending won't cure what ails you. Hire a pro! **INSPIRATION:** Change starts with you, not with pointing the finger at the blissfully ignorant.

Scorpio

October 23 to November 21

LOVE: If the common denominator is sex, a booty call trumps commitment. **WORK:** Build a nest egg before trying that solo gig. **MONEY:** Revamping finances starts with focusing on *your* needs. **INSPIRATION:** Don't die slowly waiting on the approval of others.

Sagittarius

November 22 to December 21

LOVE: Your flirtatious nature gets you noticed and in trouble, too. **WORK:** If your leadership skills are called into question, make sure your ducks are in a row. **MONEY:** If you are offered a promotion or raise, make no foot-in-mouth comments. **INSPIRATION:** Secrets and gossip can only spread when you validate them.

Capricorn

December 22 to January 19

LOVE: Your dating rules leave most suitors weary. Focus and get real. Couples, be open to possibilities. **WORK:** Instead of letting your career dominate, find a happy medium that you can live with. **MONEY:** Sound judgment with bills keeps you focused on the big picture. **INSPIRATION:** Your strength comes from your ability to overcome adversity and thrive.

DANA BLY

Aquarius

January 20 to February 18

LOVE: Distraction or disinterest send mixed messages. **WORK:** Your free-spirit persona may not be ready for a promotion with strings attached. **MONEY:** Business matters require you to be a hero and leader, not a dictator. **INSPIRATION:** Your confidence and intelligence make you more attractive.

Pisces

February 19 to March 20

LOVE: Your small circle is growing considerably, but friends with benefits is not an option. **WORK:** Embrace the team spirit over your usual loner mode. **MONEY:** Nix loopholes in joint accounts with good record keeping. **INSPIRATION:** When your life is filled with adversity, drama and negativity, consider the origins.

Aries

March 21 to April 19

LOVE: The love bug is lurking, but diversions keep you unfocused yet open. Couples, claim what's yours. **WORK:** The timing of a career change should coincide with sound advice. **MONEY:** If travel plans are limited to where and how long, raise the funds. **INSPIRATION:** If you don't have a dog in the fight then work the sideline.

Taurus

April 20 to May 20

LOVE: Being picky is okay; obsessing over traits that are changeable is ridiculous. **WORK:** Keep your emotions and anger in check at the workplace. **MONEY:** Careful research is necessary before taking chances with finances. **INSPIRATION:** Gut-wrenching decisions keep you focused, determined and humble.

Gemini

May 21 to June 20

LOVE: If you're keeping the relationship on the down-low, your mate should know. **WORK:** A lack of focus can be a sign of restlessness. **MONEY:** Your accounts are peaking, but you need operating capital. **INSPIRATION:** Reaching your comfort zone won't negate your innate drive to succeed.

Cancer

June 21 to July 22

LOVE: Make-up sex doesn't cure all, but it's a start. Couples, close the family gap. **WORK:** Until you put the haters in check, there won't be any respect. **MONEY:** Any windfall needs to be saved because the unexpected is imminent. **INSPIRATION:** Walking with a sense of purpose gets you to your destination sooner.

Leo

July 23 to August 22

LOVE: Baby steps and patience clear the way for romance. **WORK:** When tempers flare and drama trumps common sense, find common ground. **MONEY:** Overspending on that Halloween costume won't create the dramatic affect. **INSPIRATION:** With your imagination and drive, flights of fancy can become a reality.

Virgo

August 23 to September 22

LOVE: Don't be lured by the notion of a perfect mate. Couples, a heart-to-heart is overdue. **WORK:** Voice your concerns and end workplace turmoil. **MONEY:** A community project with your name on it gets financial support. **INSPIRATION:** Find your tribe when your stoic persona can't deflect the hurt and you need to heal. ☐

Horoscope by **Thelma Balfour**, author of *Black Love Signs* and *Black Sun Signs* (Touchstone).

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Eyes Wide Open

WHAT ARE YOU PRETENDING NOT TO KNOW? TRANSFORMATION COACH AND AUTHOR **SYLVIA HIGH** SHARES HOW ASKING THE RIGHT QUESTIONS CAN UNLOCK PEACE AND JOY

For years I held on to my sales job in corporate America. My position had all the perks: the best 401(k) plan, a new company car every two years and four weeks of paid vacation. My family was proud and my career was impressive. I worked from my home office in Seattle and could do the job in my sleep. It all seemed great—except I was pretending I was happy. I was pretending I cared about the mission of the organization. My spirit ached for my purpose, knowing there was more out there for me. But I denied my spirit. Every time I did that, I killed a piece of my authenticity and lost some of my power and credibility.

It wasn't until I got honest with myself that new possibilities emerged. First, I took inventory of my life. So much of the quality of our existence lies in the quality of the questions we ask ourselves. Poor questions gain unimportant answers. Queries like *What's wrong with me?* get you nowhere. *Why am I here?* is a powerful question. *What impact am I having in this moment? What and who am I allowing to impact me? What are my gifts and how can I use them to serve? What can I learn from this situation?* These are revealing, connecting inquiries.

One of the most critical questions we'll ever ask ourselves is *What am I pretending not to know?* Whenever we are in denial, we weaken our integrity and stop being true to ourselves. Whenever we operate from pretense, the price is high—we lose power and credibility not only with ourselves but also with others. You give up your freedom of full self-expression.

When we are in denial, we are actually lying to ourselves. We are pretending something is the case rather than dealing with reality. It's the art of the cover-up, except it's not really covered up, because we carry it.

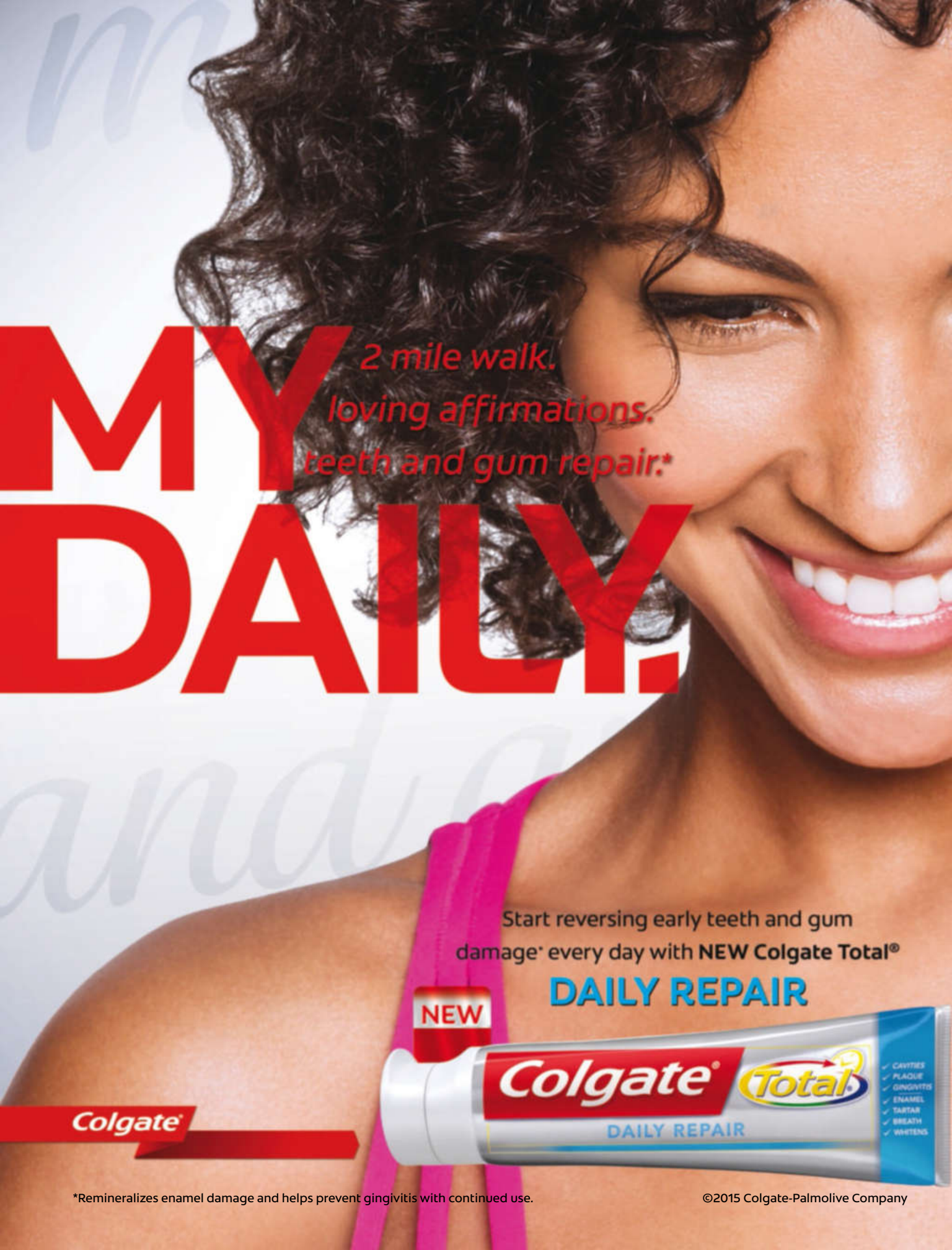
Are you pretending not to know you hate your job? Are you pretending not to know you are unhappy in your relationship.? Are you pretending not to know those extra 50 pounds you're carrying are impeding your mobility and lowering your self-esteem? Are you pretending not to know you are strong and gifted so that other people feel comfortable? For years I pretended not to know I was great at certain things to make sure others would approve of me. This facade cost me years of delay in finding my path. We convince ourselves something is okay and find ourselves tolerating what we are denying. We pretend that we don't know that we can change anything we choose to change.

A decision must be made to stop being in denial. We must first decide we are worth it! We matter, our voice matters and our dreams are important. We don't have to look far to know this. Look down at your fingertips. Out of billions of people on the planet, you and only you have those fingerprints. You are a miracle—you're magnificent with a very specific purpose.

Discovering our greatest power starts with being honest with ourselves. We cannot shift what we are unwilling to acknowledge. When I stopped ignoring I was miserable, I created a life I love. You can too. I share the important questions to help you do that in my book *The Little Book of Big Questions: A Journey in Self Discovery.* I now travel the world as a transformation coach through my company, Aiming High. Each morning you rise, you are gifted with two powerful things: the power of choice and the fact you are unlimited. What will you choose to acknowledge today?

Sylvia HIgh is an author, the CEO of Aiming High, a workshop leader for Momentum Education and the creator of the I Am Woman 2015 conference.

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